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THE TIMES

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No. 65,523

SATURDAY MARCH 9 1996

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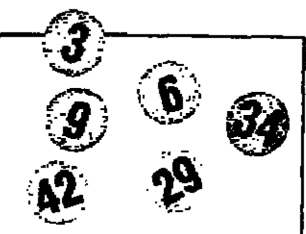

Simon Jenkins on the Government's gambling fever
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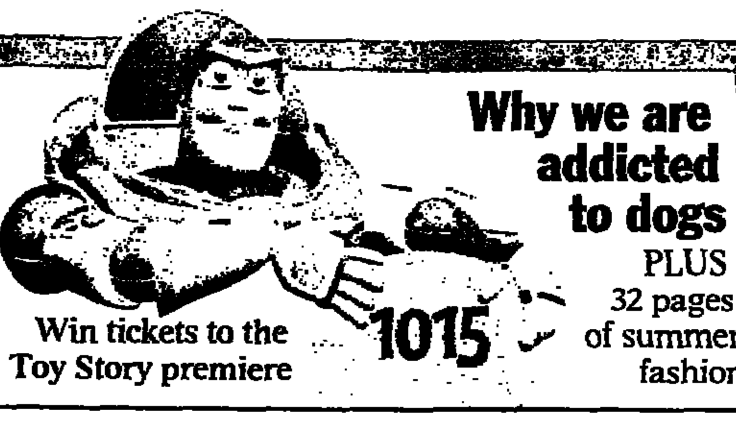

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Why we are addicted to dogs
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Corner turned at last, say analysts

Mortgage cut boost for house sales

By Marianne Curphey, Rachel Kelly and Nicholas Wood

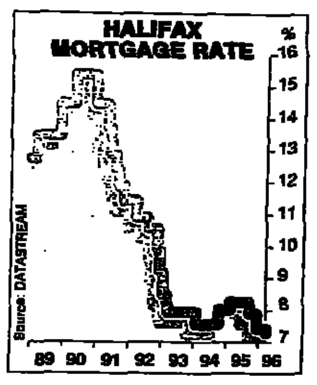
THE mortgage price war intensified yesterday after the Chancellor announced his third base rate cut in four months.

High Street lenders led by the Halifax, the biggest building society, immediately shaved a quarter of a percentage point off their home loan rates to about 7.25 per cent. But the Bradford & Bingley promised to undercut the Halifax and reduced one of its variable rates to 6 per cent.

Two weeks ago, the Nationwide jumped the gun with a cut to 6.99 per cent to prove to customers the benefits of sticking with an old-fashioned building society as rivals rushed to merge or become banks. That cut takes effect next month and the society said yesterday that it was considering whether a further reduction was in order.

The latest move, combined with other mortgage incentives and next month's tax cuts, is expected to leave the average family about £450 a year better off, and analysts predicted that it could prove the turning point for the housing market. Ciaran Barr, UK economist with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, thought that house sales might rise by 10 per cent to 1.29 million this year — half the 1988 figure — and that prices would go up by 2.5 per cent. "All the factors are right for improvement."

Already glimmers of recovery have been detected and the Halifax has reported slight increases in prices for seven consecutive months. Last month they were up by 0.9 per cent and the society expects prices overall to rise by 2 per cent this year.



Estate agents and builders cautiously welcomed yesterday's news. Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy, chief executive of the National Association of Estate Agents, said the mortgage rate reduction was another prop to support the housing market recovery, , but Roger Humber of the Housebuilders' Federation said there was still scope for deeper cuts.

Kenneth Clarke also hinted at further cuts as he expressed confidence that consumers would soon begin to enjoy "the fruits of Tory economic management". He said: "I think 1996 is going to be a very good year for the British economy, getting stronger as it goes on."

Conservative MPs desperate for a "feelgood factor" before the general election welcomed the Chancellor's recognition that rates could be cut again — they believe that the base rate must fall to 5.5 per cent by the autumn if the Government is to have any chance of reelection — but Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, saw the cut as a sign of weakness rather than strength in the economy. Malcolm Bruce of the Liberal Democrats said the cut would help industry, but he believed rates would have to rise again as the "inevitable" pre-election boom fuelled inflation.

Financial markets barely reacted when the cut was announced because it had been widely anticipated, but the FT-SE 100 Index later fell by nearly 50 points after heavy falls in America where hopes of lower rates were dashed by figures showing that the economy was growing much more strongly than expected.

Ian Amstad, economist at Bankers Trust, said: "Ken Clarke got his rate cut in with just a few hours to spare. It could have caused a bloodbath if it had happened after the US data. The US and UK economies are closely synchronised adn this is an indication that UK growth may already be poised to strengthen without the help of cheaper money."

Best deals, page 2
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GILL ALLEN

Tourists duck as pigeons that have survived the poacher cause a flutter swooping down on nuts and berries in Trafalgar Square yesterday

Pigeon fancier finds oven-ready market

By Robin Young

A DEARTH of woodpigeons before Christmas is likely to have triggered the theft of feral birds from Trafalgar Square. Police hunting a man who is believed to have trapped and carried away 4,000 of the square's birds were told yesterday the urban poacher may have found a ready market.

Last year's hot summer and mild autumn produced a bumper crop of nuts and berries, which kept flocks of wild pigeons in the woods and safely under cover until well after the pheasant shooting season had begun.

"You simply could not get woodpigeon," said Chris Driver, pigeon purchaser for Cutty Catering Specialists in south-east London, a firm which supplies London restaurants. "Usually game dealers get plenty from country estates, but before Christmas supplies simply vanished. Birds are still very difficult to get. That is why the pigeon thief is likely to have spotted a gap in the market."

Roger Hicks, a game dealer in the Cotswolds, agreed. He said: "The pigeons are still on the nuts and berries now. When they do not move out on to the crops in the fields they do not get shot. Supplies are very short."

Feral pigeons from Trafalgar Square, once plucked, would be smaller and thinner but otherwise difficult to distinguish from woodpigeon. They would also taste similar, although because they are not regularly culled their average age is likely to be higher, and the meat tougher. Opinion yesterday was unanimous that nobody would knowingly want to eat a pigeon from Trafalgar Square, but experts were doubtful that even a trained palate would be able to tell the difference. Michel Roux junior, Michelin-starred chef at Le Gavroche in Mayfair, said: "I suppose if it was minced and seasoned it would be possible to mask any bad flavours, but I would expect the birds to be terribly tough and ropey."

Supermarkets sell thousands of woodpigeon. At Sainsbury's the price is £2.45 for oven-ready birds. A spokeswoman said: "Trafalgar Square birds would never pass our quality controls."

The birds used for roasting or grilling in top London restaurants are squab, or baby pigeons, usually no more than four weeks old and fed on nothing but "pigeon's milk", predigested food regurgitated by the mother. Squab are costly, most coming from France,particularly the Bresse region.

Michel Roux has squab on the menu at Le Gavroche, with fresh truffle, cream and *foie gras*, at £38.60. At the Savoy Grill, stuffed with truffles and served with *shiitake* mushrooms and celeriac, French pigeon is £19.25. Greek restaurants last night denied that they might be purchasers for feral birds. "Pigeons are certainly a delicacy in Greece", said Alex, manager of Kalamaras, a *taverna* in west London, "but we do not have to pay anyone to catch them. If we wanted we could catch them ourselves."

Perch in history, page 5
Leading article, page 21

Old enemies meet on the Bangalore pitch

By Christopher Thomas in Delhi and Tunku Varadarajan

ALMOST one billion Indians and Pakistanis — a fifth of the world population — will turn their attention today on the city of Bangalore where the two countries will meet in the World Cup cricket competition. It will be their first match on Indian territory since 1987.

Decades of enmity from three wars on the sub-continent will be channeled into this contest. Hindu extremists have told Pakistanis not to set foot on Indian soil and have vowed to disrupt the game.

Thousands of troops and police have been deployed in the southern city and supporters of both countries have been banned from flying national flags. The Pakistani players are being guarded as if each were a president.

The extremist Shiv Sena has demanded "tears in the eyes of every Indian Muslim" should India lose.

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Blair delays introduction of power to raise 'tartan tax'

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

LABOUR will block a new Scottish Parliament from raising taxes during it's first term as part of a startling policy shift designed to reassure voters north of the border.

The move comes amid increasing unease among the Labour leadership over the apparent success of the Tory Tartan Tax campaign mounted by Michael Forsyth against Labour's tax plans for a devolved Scottish parliament

Under the existing proposals a Scottish parliament has been promised powers to raise or lower the basic rate of tax by 3p. But, in a clear sign that Tony Blair has been rattled by the Tory campaign, the Labour leadership will shortly make clear that the Scottish Labour Party will go into the next election with a manifesto pledge not to raise taxes for its first four-year term. This will mean that the new parliament will be prevented from using its tax powers until at least 2002, assuming Labour has a majority.

Yesterday Mr Blair made little reference to the Scottish Parliament when he addressed the Scottish Labour Party conference in Edinburgh. In a robust defence of New Labour, he warned his Shadow Cabinet colleagues that he would not sanction any spending commitments. In a clear signal that a Labour Government will be tough on public spending, he revealed that he had told his Shadow Cabinet to draw up a blueprint for a Labour manifesto where any new programmes were funded by better use of existing resources.

Mr Blair also gave a strong defence of Gordon Brown's policy to withdraw benefits from the Under-25's who fail to take up offers of a job or training. In a reference to several critical motions tabled against Mr Brown's proposals, Mr Blair said: "When I hear people in our party refer to our plans to get the young unemployed into work as 'an attack on the young' I rage at their stupidity just as I rage at the waste of young lives spent on the dole." The proposals would get people back to work.

Palestinian fund accounts frozen

The Charity Commissioners have frozen the bank accounts of a Palestinian fund-raising organisation after allegations of possible links to Hamas militants .

Bankers for the Palestinians Relief and Development Fund, also known as Interpal, have been told not to release any money. The spokesman said the action was protective and temporary........Page 13

Turkish Cypriot airliner hijacked

A Turkish Cypriot Boeing 727 with at least 100 passengers on board was hijacked on its way from Nicosia to Istanbul and was reported to be heading for Sofia.

An airline official said the passengers included Russians, Iranians, Bulgarians and Turks.

Beer on the house in heavy-drinker survey

By Russell Jenkins

ACADEMICS at Birmingham University are to carry out a long-term study into the benefits as well as the harmful effects of heavy drinking with the help of a £433,278 grant from the Government.

Researchers are recruiting 500 hardened drinkers through the Campaign for Real Ale to take part in the ten-year project funded by the Department of Health.

Male guinea-pigs will have to drink at least 50 units a week, the equivalent of 25 pints, and females 20 units, equal to 35 glasses of wine. The Government's recommended limit is 30 units for men and 20 for women.

Volunteers will receive £20 every time they are interviewed and will be regularly questioned to make sure they are drinking enough.

Professor Jim Orford, director of the project, said the main objective was to look at the different ways alcohol affects people. "I would be surprised if there weren't a lot of things said about the benefits," Professor Orford said. "We want to get away from the doom and gloom idea that is in the usual health approach."

Warren Hawksley, MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge, said: "It sounds to me like these academics are spending money for the sake of it."

A Department of Health spokesman said: "This study is looking at a whole range of people and whether or not they are in contact with medical services over ten years."

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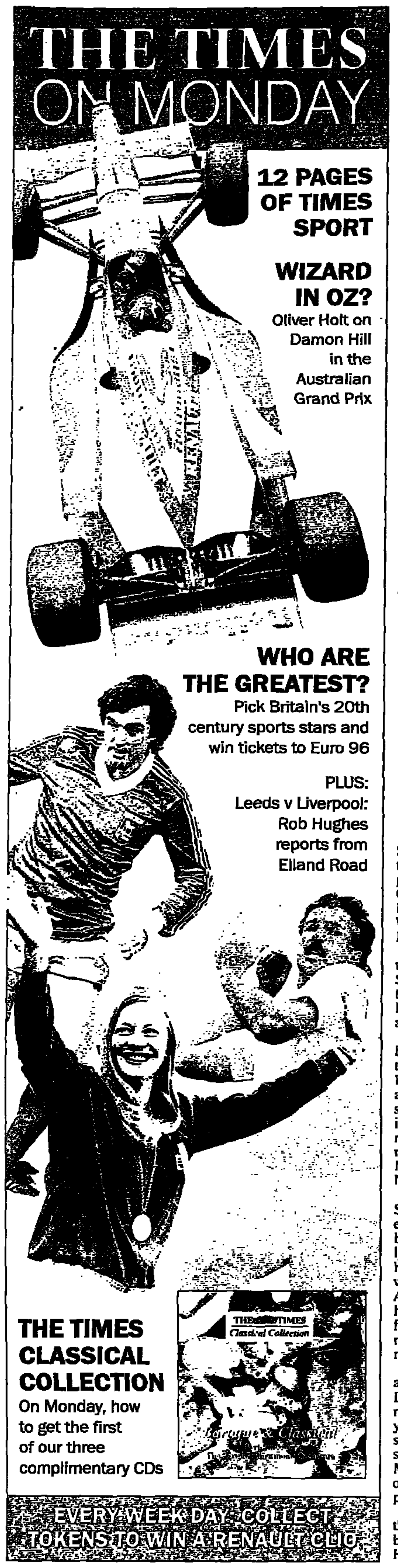
THE TIMES ON MONDAY

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Cost of mortgages cheapest since 1960s

By Caroline Merrell

THE cut in mortgage rates by most main lenders will make buying a house the cheapest it has been since the 1960s. As well as being able to benefit from variable rates at a record low, new borrowers have an array of discounts, fixed rates and cashback schemes to choose from.

Many societies are also offering to refund legal expenses and surveyors' costs. The cheapest variable rate will continue to be offered by the direct arm of Bradford & Bingley Building Society, which is planning to cut its rate from 6.25 to 6 per cent.

Other offers include a one-year 0.5 per cent fix from the Hinckley & Rugby Building Society. The monthly repayments on a £50,000 mortgage under the scheme would be about £18 a month. However, at the end of the one-year offer period, borrowers will have have to move to the society's variable rate, currently 7.49 per cent, or take out another offer. Other cheap mortgages include a 3.75 per cent fixed rate from the Skipton and a 5.99 per cent fixed rate from the Yorkshire. Again, at the end of the fixed-rate offer, borrowers could face a big increase in mortgage payments.

Other societies are offering competitive "capped-rate" loans. The rates on these loans will not rise above the cap but can fall if base rates fall. Among the more competitive is one from Barclays, which will cap the interest rate at 3.65 per cent for one year.

Other societies are taking the sting out of moving house by offering cash incentives for those wishing to borrow. Anyone taking out a mortgage with Northern Rock can benefit from a cashback scheme of up to £9,000. Other societies making cash handouts to borrowers include the Bradford & Bingley, the Cheshire and the National & Provincial. These will pay borrowers between £6,500 and £10,000. The size of the cashback depends on the amount borrowed. The downside of many of these special deals is that they carry high redemption penalties.

Borrowers could be tied with the lender for many years after the special offer has ended. The redemption penalties could be as much as six months' interest.

There was another unexpected fillip on the back of the interest rate cut. Credit card companies also started announcing lower rates. For example, the RBS Advanta Visa card, which is designed to move its rates in tandem with base-rate movements, will have an annual percentage rate (APR) of 15.6 per cent from April 1, down from 15.9 per cent. Barclaycard plans to cut its APR to 22.3 per cent from 22.6 per cent.

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BEST DEALS AVAILABLE

FIXED RATES

LENDER	% RATE	EARLY REDEMPTION PENALTY
Hinckley & Rugby to Feb 97	0.50	Difference between fixed and standard variable rate must be repaid
Skipton to May 98	3.75	5% of original loan if redeemed before 31/03/01
Yorkshire three years	5.99	6% of original loan in first year, declining gradually thereafter.
Coventry March, 2001	6.79	None
Bristol & West March, 2001	6.99	6 months of mortgage payments if redeemed before 28/02/2002

VARIABLE/DISCOUNT RATES

LENDER	% RATE	% DISCOUNT
Scarborough	7.49	6.1% for 12 months = 1.39%
John Charcol Election Beater	7.24	3% for 12 months = 4.24% and 3% cashback
Halifax	7.24	3.5% to 30/04/98 = 3.74%
Northern Rock	7.24	2.75% to 1/05/99 = 4.49%
National Counties	7.49	1.5% for 5 years = 5.99%

CAPPED RATES

LENDER	% RATE	EARLY REDEMPTION PENALTY
Barclays Bank	3.75	3.5% of total loan if redeemed before 30/04/2000
The Mortgage Business	5.95	6 months interest if redeemed in first 5 years
Birmingham Midshires MSL	7.59	3 months of mortgage payments if redeemed in first year, declining gradually thereafter

Rates may change as base rate cuts take effect
Source: John Charcol

Adams given cold shoulder by angry allies in US

From Tom Rhodes in Washington

SENATOR Edward Kennedy, the leading Irish-American politician, has refused to see Gerry Adams when the Sinn Fein president arrives in Washington next week for St Patrick's Day celebrations.

Mr Kennedy, one of the first to campaign for a United States visa for Mr Adams at the start of 1994, has decided he will not grant him his usual audience on Capitol Hill.

"If the ceasefire is resumed before Gerry Adams comes to town, I am sure that Senator Kennedy will see Mr Adams," a spokesman for Mr Kennedy said. His reluctance reflects increasing frustration among members of the Clinton Administration in the failure of Mr Adams to deliver peace in Northern Ireland.

American support for the Sinn Fein leader has weakened because of the London bombings and the increasingly bellicose language of IRA hardliners. The White House, which last week renewed Mr Adams's three-month visa, has said he may not raise funds and will not have formal meetings with any government departments.

Mr Adams has not received an invitation to the St Patrick's Day party at the White House next Friday, in contrast to last year when he was greeted as a statesman and welcomed personally by President Clinton. Mr Adams will have travelled on to Pennsylvania when the party starts.

However, David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, has been invited and will attend. He will also hold talks at the White House with Anthony Lake, the National Security Adviser.

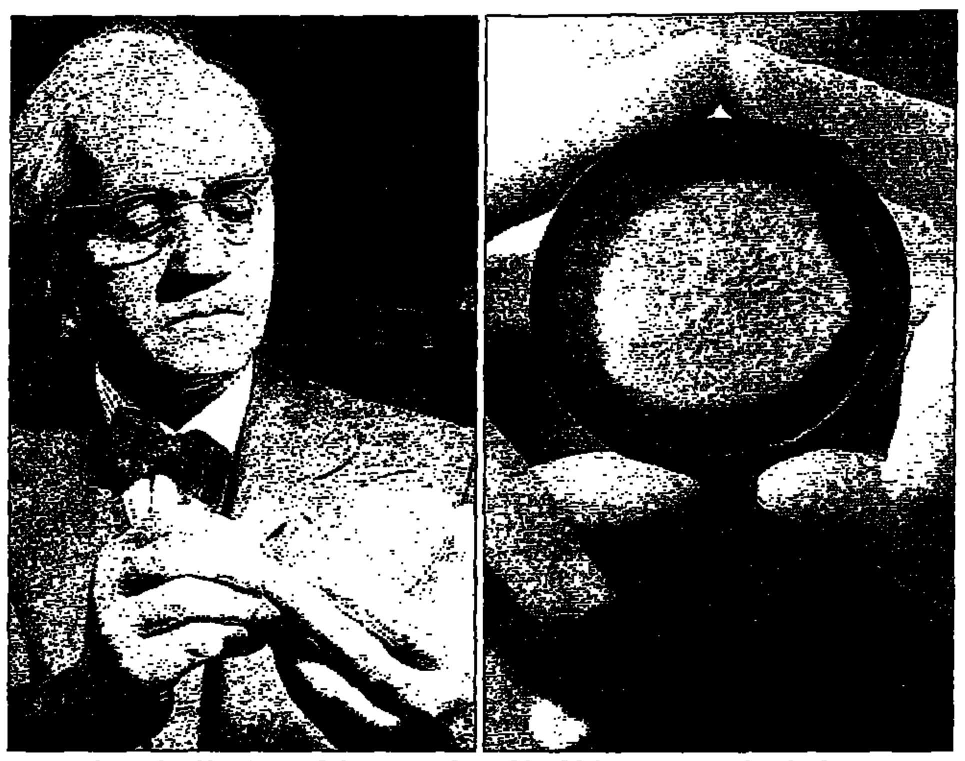
Any discussions with the Sinn Fein president are expected to be conducted at a distance. But he is still likely to meet Christopher Dodd, influential chairman of the Democratic Party and the strongest advocate on Capitol Hill of continued contact with Sinn Fein.

Sinn Fein was the only political party in Northern Ireland excluded when the British and Irish Governments sent out last night separate discussion papers outlining options for the Province's forthcoming elections.

☐ Sir Patrick Mayhew yesterday sacked two leading members of the Northern Ireland Police Authority who have led calls to reform the Royal Ulster Constabulary to make it more acceptable to nationalists.

David Cook, the chairman, and Chris Ryder, his closest ally on the body, have been removed by the Northern Ireland Secretary after the authority passed motions of no confidence in them last month. Sir Patrick asked the two men to resign during separate meetings at Stormont Castle yesterday. When they refused he terminated their appointments.

Sir Patrick said: "It was clear that the authority could not function effectively and efficiently under Mr Cook's continued chairmanship, nor with Mr Ryder as a member." Pat Armstrong, the vice-chairman, will become chairman.


Sir Alexander Fleming and the spore of mould, which was expected to fetch £10,000

Fleming's penicillin spore auctioned for £23,000

By John Shaw

A SPORE of the original mould which led Sir Alexander Fleming to discover penicillin was sold for £23,000 at Sotheby's in London yesterday. The minute sample of *Penicillium notatum* is mounted on a 2in diameter slide. A handwritten inscription on the back reads: "The mould that makes penicillin. Alexander Fleming."

The original glass plate is preserved in Fleming's laboratory in St Mary's Hospital, London, but the scientist gave two tiny specimens to his assistant Dan Stratful, one of which he passed on to his secretary, Diane Huntingford, 49, of Tonbridge, Kent, who is now a schools administrator.

Mrs Huntingford, who decided to sell the example and invest the proceeds for her two children, attended the sale with Paul, 15, and Zoë, 13, who are at Sevenoaks School. Mrs Huntingford said: "I'm delighted and very pleased it did so well. The children are at private school and this will provide for their future. They want to go on the stage and drama school is so expensive."

Asked if she had any regrets about selling the souvenir, she said: "Yes, I have slight regrets. It's an historic thing with a wonderful background but it's something I could never display. You had to treat it very carefully and that's why I kept it in a hat box. It was there for years. The children will have some money behind them now. I think that's the important thing."

The buyer was Pfizer of Sandwich, Kent, a branch of the international pharmaceutical company based in New York. A spokeswoman said the specimen was bought ahead of the company's 150th anniversary in 1999. Pfizer helped Fleming with his ground-breaking work, which saved thousands of lives during World War II. The bacteriologist shared the Nobel prize for his discovery in 1945 and died in 1955.

The underbidder was Eric Turner, who was acting for The Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, which is building up its collection of scientific items. He said the museum was interested in the specimen because Lord Florey, who came from Adelaide, helped in the development of penicillin with Fleming.

A spokeswoman for Pfizer said the company discovered how to mass produce penicillin.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Marriage perk ended for women in Forces

An exclusive privilege for women in the Services which allowed them to leave if they wanted to get married was withdrawn from yesterday on grounds of sex discrimination against men. Women who joined the Forces were previously able to give six months' notice to end their careers if they wanted to marry.

The Ministry of Defence became aware of the anomaly when a male squadron leader applied to leave the RAF to get married. Sqn Ldr George Findlay won £6,500 in an out-of-court settlement after the MoD denied him the same right as women.

Prince for Hong Kong handover

The Prince of Wales is expected to represent Britain in Hong Kong next June at ceremonies to mark its handover to China. Although a senior minister will also be present, the Prime Minister is understood to believe that a senior member of the Royal Family rather than himself should head the British team.

Adopted children offered lifeline

Thousands of Irish people sent to America for adoption because of the shame of being born out of wedlock are to be given government help to trace their natural mothers. Over 1,000 files discovered at Dublin's National Archive show that 110 children a year were sent to America between 1948 and 1962.

Most teenagers victims of crime

Most teenagers have been victims of crime, according to a survey published by the children's charity Barnardo's. An overwhelming 82 per cent had been victims and most alter their way of life to avoid it. Theft and vandalism were the commonest crimes they encountered.

Mad March hare a dying breed

A major survey of Britain's brown hare population by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee has found that numbers have slumped from around four million at the turn of the century to an estimated 820,000. The decline is blamed on changes in agricultural practices.

AC Cars calls in the receivers

AC Cars, the Surrey-based sports car manufacturer, has gone into receivership, it was announced yesterday. Price Waterhouse, the receivers, said none of the 90 staff had been laid off, production was continuing and it was confident of finding a buyer for the company, formed in 1901.

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Woman who tried to smuggle child's body on flight was suffering acute psychosis, says professor

'Devil voices' may have led Beale to kill baby

By Bill Frost

CAROLINE BEALE may have believed she was possessed by the devil when she killed her baby in New York, said her psychiatrist as the 32-year-old civil servant arrived back in Britain yesterday.

Miss Beale, who was sent home from the United States to serve five years' probation for killing her newborn baby girl, was suffering from an acute psychosis at the time of the child's death, said Channi Kumar, Professor of Perinatal Psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital in southeast London, where her treatment began last night.

Professor Kumar said Miss Beale may have heard voices in her head instructing her to kill the baby as a result of the post-partum psychosis she had developed. He said Miss Beale's ordeal had left her "exhausted and very vulnerable. She is still in a state of shock. I have visited the prison where she was held and it gave me nightmares."

She was said to be "safe, well, and resting" and likely to remain an in-patient for up to three weeks at the hospital while her condition was assessed. She is also receiving medication and an intensive course of psychotherapy is planned.

Miss Beale, who while staying at a New York hotel killed her child by placing her in a plastic bag, arrived at Gatwick yesterday morning after a flight from New York. She went through immigration and customs procedures, avoiding public areas, before being driven away.

Her return marks the end of an 18-month ordeal which started when she was arrested at John F. Kennedy airport in September 1994, and charged with murder after the body of her baby — called Olivia Ann — was found hidden in a plastic bag under her coat.

Miss Beale admitted manslaughter of the child on Monday in a plea bargain. She ws sentenced to the eight months she had already spent on remand at Riker's Island Prison in New York. She was also ordered to undergo psychiatric care in Britain for at least a year.

The numerous court appearances led her parents Peter and Daphne, from Chingford, Essex, bitterly to criticise the US judicial system. Under US law, taking the life of an infant is murder. But under British law the crime is regarded as manslaughter.

Mr and Mrs Beale — who claim that their daughter's baby was stillborn and that she was driven to conceal the death as a result of post-natal depression — said Caroline's prosecution was barbaric and medieval. Their comments infuriated New York State Supreme Court Judge Robert Hanophy, who said Mr Beale had "a big mouth" and that the couple's remarks "got under my skin". He ordered that deeds to two houses which Mr Beale put up as bail surety for his daughter should be held until her probation period was up.

Hanophy: attacked Mr Beale as a big mouth

Judge Hanophy, an American of Irish descent, has 36 years experience at the Bar and is one of a select number of judges allowed to pass New York State's newly-legalised death sentence. It was never an option in the case of Miss Beale, who was only ever charged with second degree murder and, later, manslaughter. Professor Kumar said yesterday that post-partum psychosis was "an acute and severe condition which leads to alienation from reality and the patient can hear voices ordering her to kill her child. She might also believe she was possessed by the devil," he explained.

He said that Miss Beale convinced herself her daughter was already dead when she was born. She had also refused to acknowledge that she was ever pregnant.

However, Professor Kumar said that, given time, there was no reason why Miss Beale should not make a good recovery.

"This ordeal has left scars on her — a post-traumatic stress disorder. She is depressed and anxious after what was a very unpleasant experience."

Michael Dowd, Miss Beale's US lawyer, who travelled to London with her, said the pressure on his client had been intense. "It was quite unimaginable — Caroline used to shake uncontrollably court, her legs couldn't support her.

"I marvel at her courage. She has now discovered a level of strength she did not know she possessed."

Miss Beale's last night family set about making plans for the return of her baby's body to Britain for a proper burial. The child was interred in a pauper's grave in New York.

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Caroline Beale arrives at the Maudsley Hospital to begin psychiatric treatment

Newborn accorded greater rights in US

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

IF Caroline Beale had been arrested in Britain, as a native she would have been treated as a woman suffering from a mental disorder. She would have been given a medical examination at the police station and, as a baby had died, senior officers would probably have asked that she be seen by a psychiatrist.

The majority of police officers in Britain would assume that a woman in Miss Beale's position needed medical help and sympathetic treatment. "It is almost axiomatic for police to consider that a woman who has killed a newborn baby may be suffering from a psychiatric disorder," Graham Sandell, head of the mental health division at the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said.

However, a foreign national caught with a dead baby in a plastic bag, as Miss Beale had been in America, would be treated differently from an English national and would probably be held in custody.

Mr Sandell said: "We make an assumption that a woman who kills a baby of less than 12 months will be suffering from some kind of mental health problem. In the US they act on the basis that the unborn and just born have more rights than we would accord them."

Jail for sex abuse canon who kept job

By Tim Jones

THE Church of England allowed a senior clergyman to continue his ministry while knowing he was alleged to have abused young boys, a court was told yesterday. Canon Terence Knight, 57, a former member of the General Synod, who assaulted seven boys, remained in his post for ten years after mothers first complained to his superiors.

Mrs Justice Ebsworth, jailing him yesterday for 3½ years, told him: "It is apparent that the Church took the view with knowledge of these events that you could still properly serve the Church and community. But I have to consider a wider aspect and that is the public perception of the abuse of the trust of children. It is a tragedy for the Anglican Church and for the congregations who have respected and loved you for your work."

Winchester Crown Court was told that Mr Knight, who became a priest at St Saviour's in Stamshaw, Portsmouth in 1975, preyed on boys after encouraging them to stay at his home. Charles Cochand, for the prosecution, said an 11-year-old was asked to do stretching exercises naked on the bed and a 12-year-old was encouraged to have a bath while Mr Knight washed him.

A group of mothers confronted him about the allegations in 1985 but decided not to take the complaints to the police after his superiors were informed.

Canon Howard Barker, spokesman for the Portsmouth diocese, said last night: "I can only assume that the full facts weren't made clear to the Church because this is a very serious, unfortunate and horrible set of circumstances."

Gibson: praised by Foreign Secretary

Diplomat dies after Nairobi shooting

By Emma Wilkins

A BRITISH diplomat left paralysed after being shot on duty in Nairobi died yesterday. Graeme Gibson, 43, was recuperating at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Buckinghamshire, when his condition deteriorated unexpectedly.

His injuries had left him paralysed from the chest down but with some movement in his shoulders.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, paid tribute to Mr Gibson: "All who saw Graeme after the dreadful shooting incident were impressed by the courage and cheerfulness with which he had faced up to his injuries.

"He was an officer in the best traditions of the diplomatic service. It is small comfort at this time, but we can all be proud of him."

Mr Gibson's wife Pamela, 39, had been at his bedside since the shooting in November. He had two daughters from a previous marriage.

The National Spinal Injuries Centre said that despite full resuscitation treatment, Mr Gibson died shortly after midday. A post-mortem examination is to be carried out.

£15,000 for sacked cancer victim

By A Staff Reporter

A FIRM that sacked an accountant after she was diagnosed as having cancer during her pregnancy acted with "appalling disregard" for her plight, an industrial tribunal ruled yesterday.

Carole Coe, 30, of Hyde, Greater Manchester, arrived home from hospital after chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment for cervical cancer to find a letter telling her she was dismissed from her £23,000-a-year job. She was awarded £15,000 in compensation for hurt feelings and aggravated damages from Tee Gee Snacks, of Leeds.

Miss Coe, who now lives on benefits, must wait for a decision on whether her claim for more than £100,000 in lost future earnings has been successful. The tribunal, which last month ruled in favour of Miss Coe's claim that she was the victim of sex discrimination, had heard that the firm wrongly believed she was not automatically entitled to return to work after maternity leave because she had worked there for less than two years.

But at the Manchester hearing to decide the amount of compensation yesterday, tribunal chairman Jill Earshaw said: "The circumstances have simply taken our breath away. How anyone could have behaved in such a manner is beyond our understanding."

She added: "The circumstances in which she learned of her dismissal were aggravated, we believe, by the appalling disregard the respondents had for her medical condition. This was an injury to her feelings that would not have been short-lived."

No one was available for comment at Tee Gee Snacks last night.

Head warns career mothers to avoid 'opulent neglect'

By David Charter
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

WORKING mothers risk damaging their children's emotional lives if they return to their careers without carefully considering the consequences, a leading headmaster warned yesterday.

Roy Chapman, head of Malvern College in Worcestershire, said it was possible for women to pursue high-flying careers without harming their children but should only do so after a great deal of thought.

The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, which represents 240 leading independent schools, backed Mr Chapman by warning against the dangers of "opulent neglect" afflicting youngsters whose working parents are too busy to see them.

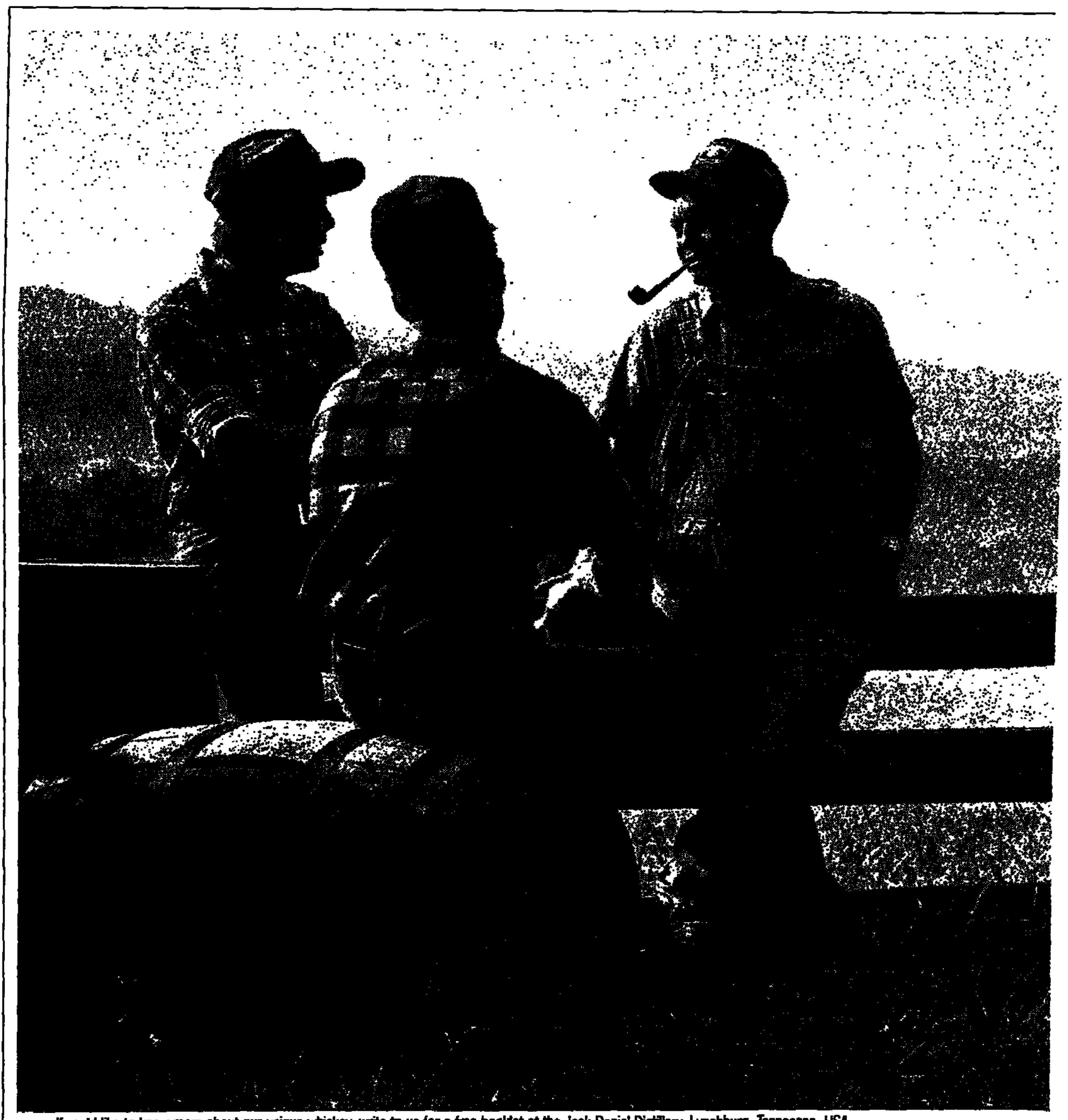
Mr Chapman, a former conference chairman, said that he was not opposed to women holding top jobs but he had seen too many children damaged by the neglect of their career mothers.

In an article called *Working Mothers*, Mr Chapman said: "It is possible for families to have a working mother and to have children whose emotional development is not stunted. But it does not happen without a great deal of thought .. I would not wish to deprive mothers of the opportunity to go back to work. But it is those who have to make compromises who lose out by getting the worst of both worlds.

Mr Chapman said: "If there is any moral in all this, it must be that mothers who choose to return to work should do so without any pangs of guilt."

Tony Evans, the conference's current chairman, said that there were three great dangers to the fabric of society: absent fathers; the frequency of divorce; and working mothers who neglect their children.

He said working mothers needed to realise they could not regiment their lives so they planned a limited amount of quality time with their children. "I am very sceptical about this quality time. Children just need time and you cannot legislate for when they will need it," he said.



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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Robert Harris on Balliolitis

When Chris Patten told journalists in Hong Kong that he "certainly" wanted to return to British politics, one could hear the authentic tone of Balliol ambition at a range of 8,000 miles . . .

Patten's circumstances strangely echo those of Lord Curzon, who returned in 1906 from being viceroy of India. Robert Harris, in News Review — The Sunday Times tomorrow

Father and friend give part of lung to save girl

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS

Clare Wildman with her father, Graham, and Jude Harris, who each gave a lobe of their lungs for transplant

TWO people have given part of their lungs to save a dying girl in the first operation in Britain involving living lung donors. The father of Clare Wildman, who has the lung disease cystic fibrosis, and her mother's best friend each donated a lobe of their lungs.

The operation, performed by Sir Magdi Yacoub, is believed to be the first in the world involving an unrelated living lung donor. Clare, from Mill Hill, north London, can now breathe almost normally after needing oxygen continually for the past two years.

Jude Harris, for 30 years a friend of Clare's mother, Averil, agreed to become a donor after doctors said Mrs Wildman she was not a good match for Clare and neither were Clare's uncles or aunts. Similar operations have been performed in America but these have involved relatives.

Adult lungs have five lobes. Donors who give up a single lobe lose about 20 per cent of their lung capacity but can still lead normal lives.

Once transplanted into the recipient, the air sacs in the lobe expand to fill the space in the chest cavity and function like a complete lung. Patients with cystic fibrosis, in which the lungs become congested with mucous and progressively damaged, do not need a full-size adult lung since they tend to be small because of their illness. Clare is aged 20.

Dr Margaret Hodson, head of the department of cystic fibrosis at the Royal Brompton Hospital, west London, who cared for the Wildmans, said: "You won't be able to run a four-minute mile after donating a lobe but you can do all the normal things like housework and gardening."

Dr Hodson said donors had to pass a series of physical tests. They were also interviewed by a psychiatrist to ensure they had considered all the implications. She said 95 per cent of cystic fibrosis sufferers died of lung disease. "When you reach end-stage respiratory failure and you have had maximal medical treatment with physiotherapy and antibiotics your only chance is a transplant. But the options are limited because of the shortage of organs."

Details of the operation, carried out at Harefield Hospital, west London, last July, were disclosed yesterday after a dinner for Sir Magdi given by the businessman Mohamed Al Fayed to raise money for research. It emerged that Clare has suffered a rare neurological side-effect of the drugs used to control rejection of the organs which has left her paralysed from the waist down. Dr Hodson said: "Any transplant surgery has risks: the most common are infection and rejection. This is a very rare side-effect, not related to the surgery. It is very unfortunate."

Clare has to do breathing exercises and is on powerful anti-rejection drugs but her quality of life has improved and she is planning to go to college and to travel.

Clare's mother approached the Royal Brompton having read of parents in America giving part of their lungs to their children.

Mrs Harris said: "At first it was easy just saying yes. I was very frightened as the operation got closer but there was no way I wasn't going to do it. They wanted to be sure we understood what we were doing and that there was no pressure on us. I just didn't want Clare to die." Clare's father, Graham, said: "They told me I would lose 20 per cent of my lung capacity but it would mean Clare would live."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess's stalker committed to hospital

A German doctor who has been following the Princess of Wales has been committed to a mental hospital for 28 days. The prosecution at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, central London, dropped charges of breach of the peace and obstructing police against Dr Klaus Wagner, 37.

Wagner had been led away by police from a charity function at which the Princess appeared last night. Nazir Afzal, for the prosecution, told the court: "He is deluded, he requires urgent treatment, he is a danger both to himself and the public."

309 forced out by Services gay ban

A total of 309 people left the Services between 1990 and 1994 because of their sexual orientation, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, said yesterday in a Commons written reply. The disclosure comes after publication of a review of policy on homosexuals in the forces, which found that an overwhelming majority supported the current ban. Mr Soames pledged this week to "fight every inch of the way" to keep the ban.

Temazepam ban ruled lawful

A government decision to stop GPs prescribing gel-filled capsules of the drug temazepam on the NHS has been upheld in the High Court. Mr Justice Judge rejected an appeal by the pharmaceutical company R.P. Scherer that the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, had erred in law when he decided to ban its product from being prescribed to NHS patients after the capsules were linked to deaths and injury in drug addicts.

Navy drugs haul

The Royal Navy frigate *HMS Brave* has seized almost half a tonne of cocaine with a street value of £10 to £15 million in a joint operation with the US Coastguard in the Caribbean. It was the warship's third big drugs haul.

History protest

Archaeologists will join protesters today against the Newbury bypass, which threatens the remains of ancient settlements. Rob Young, of the British Archaeological Trust, said: "Unless we act our past will never be understood."

Breath test plea

A chef who drove to a police station demanding to be breathalysed was four times over the limit, magistrates at Cirencester, Gloucestershire, were told. Douglas Sinton, 37, pleaded guilty to drink-driving. He will be sentenced later.

Farmers' leader

Sandy Mole, from Reston, Borders, has been elected president of the National Farmers' Union of Scotland. Mr Mole, formerly vice-president, is also vice-chairman of the Scottish Agricultural and Rural Development Board.

Less of a blow

A man jailed for three months for blowing a raspberry at magistrates in Darlington had his sentence reduced on appeal. Troy Donahue, of Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne, who denied contempt, will serve one month.

Jobseeker waits for his ship to come in

By Paul Wilkinson

A DESCENDANT of the founder of the shipbuilder Swan Hunter is one of thousands hoping to win back their jobs at the yard.

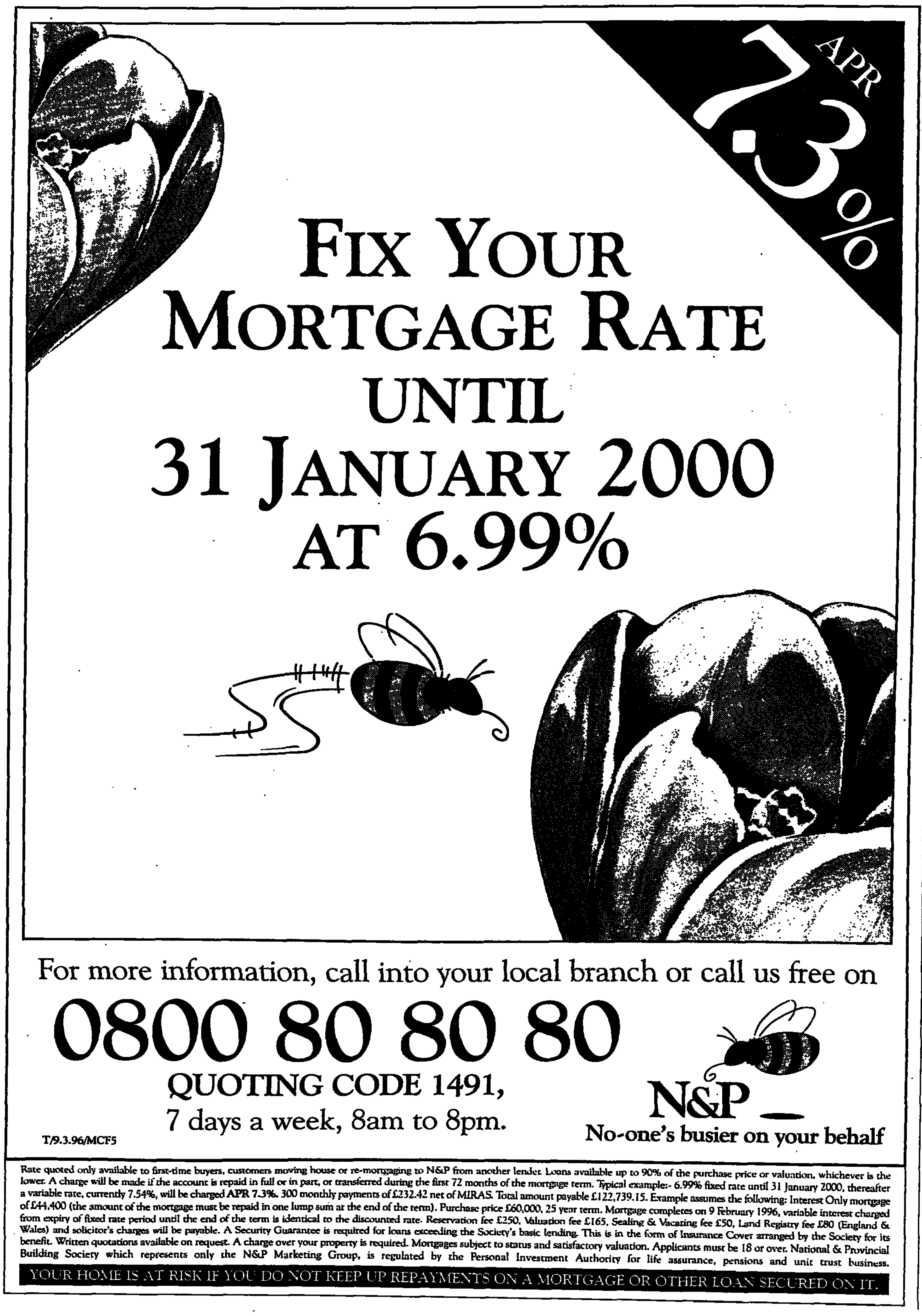
David Swan, 57, great-grandson of Sir Charles Swan, who started his yard in Wallsend in 1873, has applied for his old position in the quality assurance department. He is one of 4,000 Tynesiders who have sought work at Swan this week after details of a big order were released by its new owner, THC, of The Netherlands.

About 1,200 jobs are being created by a £50 million contract to convert the 127,500-tonne oilfield pipelayer *Solitaire* for a Swiss firm. Swan, which built some of Britain's most famous ocean-going liners and warships, went into receivership in May 1993, when it employed 2,400 people. Until recently only 200 have remained, working on care and maintenance.

Mr Swan, a widowed father of two, from Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, was made redundant in the final round of job losses in May 1994. He described that moment as the "worst in my family's history".

He said: "I am hoping and waiting. There are a lot of skilled men out there just waiting to work. If I get my job back it will be strange to walk through those gates."

David Swan: hopes to get his old job back



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Feral pest that survived the Great Fire and the cooking pot falls foul of thief with cardboard trap

Pigeons occupy prominent perch in London history

By Michael Hornsby
Countryside Correspondent

TRAFALGAR SQUARE, scene of the theft of up to 4,000 pigeons, has been a traditional rendezvous for the birds since Nelson's Column was erected in 1841. But they have been residents of the city for centuries, and considered a pest for almost as long.

In the late 14th century the Bishop of London complained that people throwing stones at pigeons were breaking the windows of St Paul's Cathedral. In his diary entry for September 2, 1666, during the Great Fire of London, Samuel Pepys wrote: "The poor pigeons were loath to leave their houses but hovered about the windows and balconies till some of them burned their wings and fell down."

The denizens of Trafalgar Square, known as feral pigeons, are motley-hued mongrels which have interbred with racing pigeons, pouters, fantails and other fancies that have escaped from domestic lofts. They are all descended from the wild rock dove whose Latin name, *Columba livia*, they share.

"Rock doves are now rare, confined to coastal cliffs on Orkney, the Shetland Islands and the Hebrides," Mike Everett, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said. "Even feral pigeons are quite thin on the ground in the countryside because of loss of habitat and weedy fields in which to find seed."

Pepys: wrote of birds' plight in Great Fire

In city centres, pigeons nest on roofs, parapets, bridges and window ledges and in stairwells and lofts, the nearest equivalent of their ancestral cliffs. Pigeons have flocked to the capital in growing numbers in recent decades because of the plentiful food supply, from fast-food scraps to bread put out by birdlovers. A government-licensed seed vendor has been stationed in Trafalgar Square for 50 years. The food supply is so good that a pair of birds is able to breed up to seven times a year, each brood averaging 1.2 young.

Pigeon droppings have become a menace, the acid content eating away at buildings and even the steelwork on bridges. The National Heritage Department spends £100,000 a year on washing Trafalgar Square each morning and removing up to a ton of pigeon faeces annually from Nelson's Column.

The official population of feral pigeons is put at 200,000 but Rentokil, the pest control company, says there are at least 1.5 million in London alone.

Britain's most numerous pigeon is the woodpigeon, *Columba palumbus*, which is half as big again as its town cousin with a grey back, pink breast, white collar and white wing stripes. There are 2.5 million breeding pairs, which are joined in winter by thousands of migrants from the Continent.

Woodpigeons make excellent eating and tens of thousands are shot every year, mainly by farmers who are licensed to treat the birds as crop pests.

The three other native pigeons are the stock dove (*Columba oena*), the turtle dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) and the collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*).

Racing pigeons are of the same species as rock doves and feral pigeons but are the product of years of breeding to select those with the best homing instincts. Pigeon breeding is known to have been practised as long ago as 3000 BC in Ancient Egypt.

The Sultan of Baghdad established a pigeon-post system in 1150 and Genghis Khan used pigeons as messengers to spread news of his conquests. Paul Julius Reuter used carrier pigeons as well as electric telegraphy for his prototype news service in Paris in 1849.

Leading article, page 21

MIKE STEVENS

Can't catch me: a pigeon taking up a safe perch in Trafalgar Square yesterday

'He'd better not let me see him doing it again'

By John Young

IF THE mysterious pigeon fancier who has been kidnapping Trafalgar Square's best-known residents had returned to the scene yesterday, he could have expected an unfriendly encounter with one Bernard Rayner.

Mr Rayner is a burly Londoner who sells cartons of maize, nuts and barley at 25p a time from a stall beneath Nelson's Column. He becomes suitably miffed if he perceives a threat to his livelihood. Yesterday he claimed to have seen the thief at work twice in the past few days.

"He came along with a cardboard box full of corn and, after he'd enticed the birds inside, he shut the lid and carried them away," he said. "I asked him what he wanted the birds for, and he said for breeding purposes. But I said that was rubbish and that he was hoping to make a profit. He looked a bit shifty at that."

He described the man as in his early 20s, of mixed race, wearing blue overalls and a maroon baseball cap. When they met for the second time, Mr Rayner took action, emptying the box and tearing it to pieces. "He'd better not let me see him again."

Most of the yesterday's visitors seemed unaware of such goings-on. Carol Jackson, from Edinburgh, watching her children Kieran, 9, and Caitlin, 5, surrounded by a large flock of the noisy, messy and intrusive birds, said she could not imagine Trafalgar Square without the pigeons. Another Scot, George Watson, from Aberdeen, with his daughter Rona and eight-year-old grandson Kevin, asked what anyone could possibly want to steal pigeons for. "It's a strange country, England," he added. Two French girls, Françoise Desmarches and Angelique Steuperaert, also seemed to regard pigeon-stealing as a peculiarly English vice.

Veronica Springate and her friend Melissa, both from Texas, stood festooned with pigeons, while Veronica's sister took photographs. "I think it's wrong and should be stopped," Melissa said. Were there any pigeons in Texas? "None that I've seen."

Tina Grundwig, from Copenhagen, with her two children, thought London a beautiful city but that it would be better still without the pigeons. "I'm really not fond of pigeons," she confided. "We have too many at home and they're a nuisance."

FIRST, CATCH YOUR BIRD

THE best place for a pigeon is on a dinner plate, according to chefs. But if you haven't a coo how to cook it, here are some expert tips.

First, a word of warning: the gourmet will always prefer the wood pigeon to its town-bred cousins. Feral pigeons are suspected of being carriers of meningitis, dermatitis, and virulent gastro-enteritis.

☐ **Raymond Blanc's breast of wild pigeon with red wine juice:**

Ingredients: four pigeons, oil, ½ bottle of red wine, four juniper berries.

1. Lift the breasts from the pigeon. Remove the skin. Reserve the breasts.
2. Chop the carcasses and legs. Sear in hot oil until caramelised. Add half a bottle of red wine. Reduce by half. Cover with water. Bring to the boil, skim and barely simmer for one hour. Strain the juices and reduce right down to consistency. Add the juniper berries.
3. Pre-heat oven to 400F. Pan-fry the breasts in hot oil for 30 seconds on each side and roast in the pre-heated oven for five minutes. Rest for two minutes.
4. Serve on a bed of stewed cabbage and spoon the sauce around.

Serve with stewed red cabbage and cassis

Chef's note: A very easy recipe. If you want to omit the sauce simply serve pan-fried breasts with cranberry sauce. Pigeon goes very well with stewed red cabbage and blackcurrant cassis and vinegar.

☐ **Casserole of pigeons:** Lard pigeons with bacon, fry in butter till browned, place in casserole covered with good gravy, adding spring onions and button mushrooms, red wine, salt and pepper. Cook in slow oven for 45 minutes.

☐ **Pigeons in Disguise:** Draw and truss the pigeons, season with pepper and salt, roll each in a piece of puff-pastry, tie them in a cloth and boil for an hour and a half. When untied put them in a dish, taking care not to break the casing. Serve with good gravy.

Treasure Bill buries 'finders keepers'

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

REFORM of the laws of treasure trove to safeguard the nation's gold and silver antiquities won government backing yesterday. Ministers gave their full support to a backbench Bill that will force treasure hunters to report all booty to the Crown, which will then offer a reward.

The Bill will affect thousands of professional and amateur archaeologists who uncover around 400,000 objects a year, and will end the tradition of "finders keepers". Ministers said it would increase the number of finds defined as treasure from about 25 a year to 250. Their aim is to stem the tide of ancient artefacts being sold abroad.

Under medieval law, which MPs yesterday deemed to be archaic, the Crown has the right to buried antiquities only if it can prove that the treasure was hidden with the intention of recovery, and the descendants of the person who buried it cannot be found. The rules were set during Richard the Lionheart's reign. Coroners' juries had to decide what the dead were thinking when they buried their goods. If the Crown won, it offered the finder a reward; if it lost, it could have no further claim.

Under the new Bill, brought in by Sir Anthony Grant, Tory MP for Cambridgeshire South West and supported by the Opposition, the Crown would automatically receive any hidden treasure and the finder would be compensated. The Crown could also lay claim to items associated with the treasure, such as the pot in which it was found.

Any object at least 300 years old and containing more than 5 per cent precious metal will now be classed as treasure trove, although single coins will be excluded. There will be a new offence of not declaring a find; treasure hunters' rights to claim rewards will be safeguarded; and landowners will have new rights to be informed of finds on their grounds and be eligible for rewards if the finder is trespassing.

Sir Anthony described the current law as "a medieval lottery" that had resulted in important finds being lost to the nation.

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Leukaemia clinic given £30,000

Father of cancer girl sets up fund for sick children

By Carol Midgley

Jaymee: she continues to make good progress

THE father of Jaymee Bowen, the 11-year-old girl refused a second bone-marrow transplant on the NHS, has donated £31,000 to the private clinic which stepped in to treat her for leukaemia.

A year after the Court of Appeal ruled that Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Commission need not fund his daughter's £75,000 treatment because the chances of success were so slim, David Bowen has founded a charitable fund at the London Clinic to help children in Jaymee's position.

Mr Bowen, 32, said the money, raised in an appeal by the *Daily Mirror*, was intended to help another child denied similar cancer treatment from public funds "and make sure the nightmare we went through does not have to happen to someone else".

Jaymee, who was given less than six weeks to live after being diagnosed as suffering from acute myeloid leukaemia, continues to do well. She received donor lymphocyte infusion paid for by a private benefactor. The experimental treatment, which involves killing leukaemia cells with chemotherapy and flooding the body with healthy donated blood, was not available on the NHS last March.

Jaymee has started her first year at secondary school in Hertfordshire, taken up roller-skating and learnt to ride a mountain bike. She has been eased off steroids and will start another drug soon. Although she gets breathless easily, she insists that she is happy and regrets none of the treatment she had.

As she ate pizza in a restaurant close to the family's new home in Sawbridgeworth, where she lives with her father, his partner Susan, her ten-year-old sister Charlotte and two-year-old half-sister Phoebe, Jaymee was unwilling to play the media star. "I'm okay, really I am. What I really want is not to be treated as someone special: I'm just like everybody else really.

"At school people sometimes say to me, 'Are you that girl that was on the telly?' I just mutter 'Yes' and change the subject. I'm glad I'm still here and my dad had proved all those doctors wrong."

It was on March 10 last year that three Appeal Court judges, led by Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, ruled that NHS funds were not limitless and that her local health commission could not be forced to pay for a second bone-marrow transplant. "In a perfect world any treatment would be provided no matter how much it cost ... but it would be shutting our eyes to proceed on the basis that we live in such a world," the judges said.

The commission had argued on advice from doctors at Addenbrooke's Hospital, in Cambridge, that Jaymee's first transplant had not worked and that her chances of surviving a second were only 2.5 per cent.

After a national outcry, an anonymous benefactor donated £75,000 for Jaymee to be treated by Dr Peter Gravett at the London Clinic. He reached the same conclusion, that another transplant was pointless, and embarked instead on the experimental lymphocyte treatment. The chances of a cure are put at around 20 to 30 per cent.

Diana Jakubowska, speaking for the Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Commission, said it stood by its orginal decision to refuse a second transplant. She said that the lymphocyte treatment had developed "at a great pace" since last March. Four children are currently receiving donor lymphocyte infusion at the Royal Marsden Hospital on NHS funds.

"Of course we are delighted if things are going well for Jaymee," Ms Jakubowska said. "But we are still convinced that we made the right decision based on the advice from the doctors at Addenbrooke's at that time."

She said the lymphocyte treatment Jaymee received privately had not been properly tested for children and thus was not available on the NHS at the time. "However, medical science is changing all the time. If we had the same situation again now, maybe the advice from the doctors would be different."

DES JENSON

Air stewardess Andrea Carter modelling a dress by Bruce Oldfield, below right, who showed his collection on a BA flight to New York

Oldfield takes fashion to new heights

PASSENGERS on a British Airways jumbo jet to New York were treated to in-flight entertainment with a difference when the designer Bruce Oldfield showed his latest fashions at 35,000ft (Amandip Uppal writes).

The aisles of the Boeing 747 were transformed into catwalks as six stewardesses became models for the seven-hour flight, swapping their BA uniforms for skirts and trouser suits teamed with silk over frilly bow-tie shirts. After changing on the jumbo's top deck, they paraded in a circuit past the surprised passengers.

The show, which was to publicise the opening of Oldfield's new shop in the West End of London, consisted of fashions for autumn and winter '96. It included his first ready-to-wear collection, from bright red sequin dresses to black and white suits.

The in-flight film was replaced by a simultaneous screening of the fashion show, complete with a running commentary from Oldfield. The climax came as the designer accompanied a model as she showed a £9,000 wedding dress. Nicola Peet, one of the models, said: "I'm sure the passengers enjoyed it."

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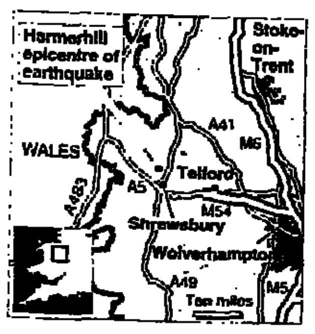
Shires earthquake gives residents cause for alarm

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent



THE tiny hamlet of Harmerhill in Shropshire was put on the map yesterday by becoming the centre of Britain's first earthquake of the year. Residents in towns near by scampered from their beds as the quake, measuring 3.2 on the Richter scale, rumbled through Britain's most seismically active zone.

While hardly ranking on the scale of those that have devastated Japan and western America, the Harmerhill event did set off burglar alarms and a hamster in Shrewsbury was jolted out of his box into the bottom of his cage. Jackie Morris, his owner, said: "When I was woken up by the vibrations I didn't know what was happening and then I noticed that the hamster had fallen out of his little house."

Catherine Griffiths, of Castlefields, Shrewsbury, said: "The house rocked for a second. It was a faint rumble as if a juggernaut had gone past — but without the noise."

Police were deluged by hundreds of calls shortly after 11.41pm on Thursday. Inspector John Ransley, of West Mercia Constabulary, said many people thought it might be a terrorist bomb. "The calls came from a wide area including Shrewsbury, Telford, Wem, Baystonhill and villages in between," he said.

The event, which lasted a few seconds, was detected by the British Geological Survey in Edinburgh. A spokesman said Britain could expect three earthquakes a year measuring as high as three on the Richter scale. More than 300 seismic events occur in Britain each year with Wales and the Borders being the most active areas. But the survey believes the country can never suffer anything bigger than an earthquake measuring six on the scale.

That is because the British Isles are too far from big geological faults or where the earth's plates grind together. The main concentration of these is in the so called "ring of fire" around the Pacific. Nevertheless damage has been caused to property and people have been killed by earthquakes in Britain. North Wales and northwest England are particularly sensitive areas.

In 1580 two people died in London after a quake struck along a geological fault stretching from Kent to Belgium. The most damaging quake in more recent times hit Colchester, Essex, in 1884 and was said to have killed four people. It also damaged 1,200 homes and flattened a church.

The biggest British earthquake this century centred on north Wales in July 1984 and recorded 5.4 on the Richter scale, causing aftershocks around most of the country.

In April 1990, the area was the epicentre of a severe quake as a 20-second tremor centred on Wrexham measured 5.2. It caused buildings across the West Midlands and Black Country to be evacuated, toppled chimneys and caused structural damage.

In August 1992, the British Geological Survey founds signs of a 120-mile fault beneath the Irfon valley in Wales, which may explain why the area is the centre of so much seismic activity. The fault runs from north of Carmarthen in a north-easterly direction.

PETER NICHOLLS

Richard Weekly, a horticulturist at Kew Gardens in west London, on picket duty outside the main gates yesterday during a strike by gardeners.

Kew gardeners take to picket line

The stoppage, the first in Kew's history of more than 200 years, was hailed as a "resounding success" by the GMB general union.

It said it had recruited new members from among staff in the dispute over pay. Botanists and horticulturists walked out in protest at a performance-related pay offer which the union said would lead to increases of only £65 a year for some staff. Paul Maloney, GMB regional officer, said from the picket line: "The turn-out has been fantastic with around 95 per cent of our members joining the strike. We have also recruited new members and we have received a lot of support from the public who are signing our petition. We hope that the management will recognise the strength of feeling among the staff and meet us for talks because we don't want to take further strike action."

The management has said that the performance-related element of the pay rise would increase average earnings by 6.5 per cent. The lowest figures referred to by the GMB would relate to only six out of the 154 horticultural staff at the gardens.

Kew, which is staging its annual orchid festival, was open as normal yesterday. A spokeswoman said earlier that other staff were not involved in the dispute and that many gardening staff were not in the GMB.

Farmers go to court over ostriches

By A Staff Reporter

AN OSTRICH breeder took court action against a rival yesterday, accusing him of copying his methods. The Ostrich Breeding and Farming Corporation, which was set up in 1986, is seeking to take legal action against the Ostrich Breeding Company, which started its 100-acre farm 18 months ago.

Robin Higgens, spokesman for the group, which is based in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, told the High Court in London that the rival company, based in Swansea, was mimicking its offers and publicity. But a spokesman for the company said: "If they think they have a sole right over ostrich breeding and farming, they don't."

Ostrich meat — with the taste of fillet steak and less fat than fish — is being hailed as the dish of the future, and its supporters claim it will become as cheap and plentiful as turkey within ten years.

The group won an order for a full High Court action.

Newspaper reported to Lyell

By Richard Duce

A JUDGE referred the *Daily Mail* to the Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, yesterday over an article that led to the collapse of an Old Bailey trial.

The newspaper apologised on Thursday for publishing details that had not been put before the jury in the arson case against Anthony King, a disc jockey who terrorised the family of his ex-girlfriend.

The trial judge, Recorder James Chadwin, QC, said: "Because of the seriousness of the consequences, while accepting the sincerity of the apology, I have decided it is appropriate to refer the matter to the Attorney-General."

The *Daily Mail* said that one of its journalist had failed to recognise that certain material had not been meant for publication until the trial ended.

After the jury was discharged, King, 25, was found not guilty of recklessly endangering life. He admitted five other charges and will be sentenced on March 28.

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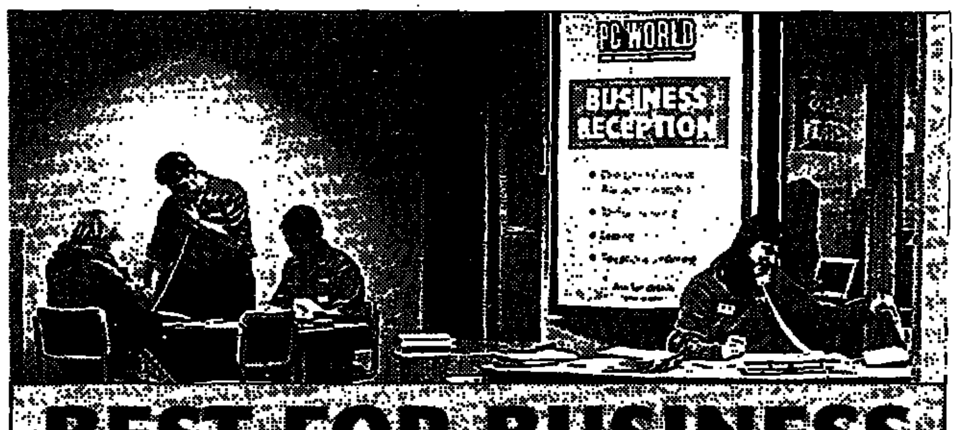

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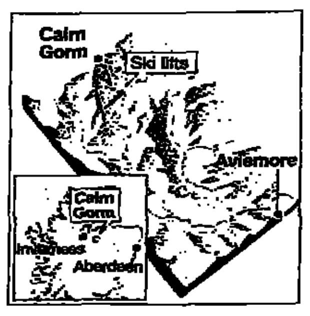
THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Conservationists derail Aviemore skiers' train

By Andrew Pierce



A £17 MILLION plan to build Britain's highest railway station in the Cairngorms has been blocked by Scotland's leading conservation group.

Scottish Natural Heritage, which advises the Government on environmental issues, has announced its opposition to the project, dubbed the "train to the heavens". Cairngorm Chairlift Company, which wants to replace its 35-year-old ski tows, has said that the objections to the railway and proposed visitor centre could jeopardise the future of the Scottish skiing and tourism industry. The railway was expected to quadruple the number of summer visitors to 250,000.

The project was unveiled in 1993 by the company, which runs the ski centre about ten miles from Aviemore. It would have created hundreds of jobs and injected £10 million into the Highland economy.

Environmentalists fear that the development could destroy moves to make the adjoining land a Special Area of Conservation. Ramblers, mountaineers and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds have also opposed the scheme.

They fear that the prospect of hundreds more people swarming over the Cairngorm plateau, an area of fragile tundra, could wreak massive destruction on the mountain's flora and fauna. They could also disturb the nesting sites of rare birds such as the dotterel and the ptarmigan.

The one-and-a-quarter mile railway, one of the smallest in Britain, would carry 500 people every hour. The journey to the ski slopes would last five minutes.

The company revised its plans to try to accommodate the objections of Scottish Natural Heritage. It proposed to limit the size of the mountaintop visitor centre and to introduce a ranger service.

Tim Whittome, the chairman of Cairngorm Chairlift, said: "We had done all we could. The ranger system would have ensured that people did not trample on the sensitive alpine vegetation. I am so incensed by the objections I am almost at a loss what to say. We have been asking Scottish Natural Heritage what we have to do to satisfy them ever since we started working with their officials back in August 1994. What more do they want? This is totally unacceptable."

Magnus Magnusson, the chairman of Scottish Natural Heritage, said: "This has not been an easy decision. We have taken into account our duties not only for nature conservation but for the better understanding, enjoyment and sustainable use of the natural heritage. But the nature of this proposal has meant that too many uncertainties remained."

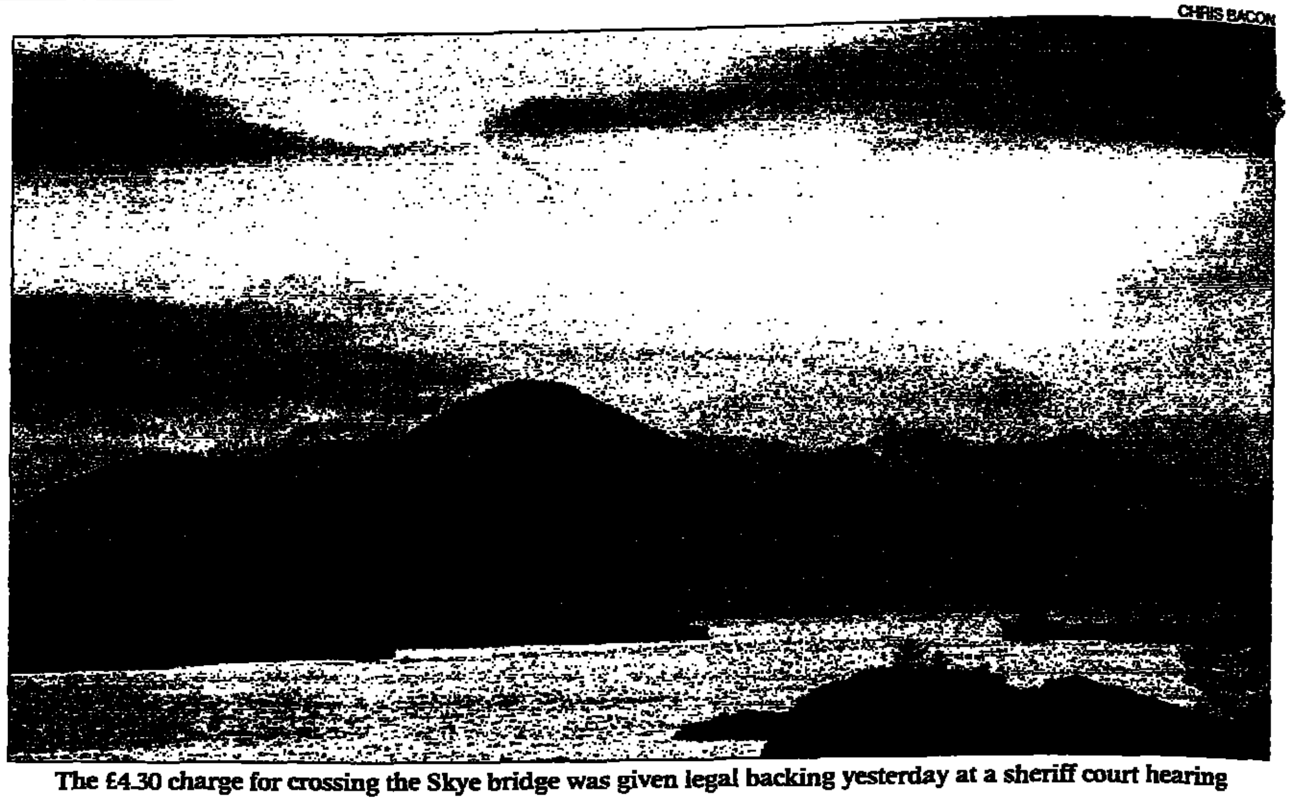
Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, may set up a public inquiry into the railway, which would run at a height of 3,600ft. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, which owns 32,000 acres in the Cairngorms, has threatened to challenge the scheme in the European Court of Justice.

The Highlands and Islands Enterprise Board has expressed disappointment at the outcome as it had expected a jobs boom in the area. European funding of up to £5 million has already been sought. The setback on the railway scheme comes only months after the Aviemore Centre in the town itself was sold in a £7.4 million deal that promised to revitalise the area.

Desmond Bloom, the colourful new owner, has promised a £16 million investment on the 100-acre site and plans are being drawn up for 71 holiday chalets, a swimming pool, hotels and a 700-seater cinema. Mr Bloom, a former boxer and minder to Screaming Lord Sutch, is an enthusiastic supporter of the railway project.

The centre, which was built in 1966, has suffered from years of underinvestment. Mr Bloom, whose Premier Land Group bought the centre, will create hundreds of new jobs.

CHRIS BACON



The £4.30 charge for crossing the Skye bridge was given legal backing yesterday at a sheriff court hearing

Sheriff rules Skye tolls are legal

By A Staff Reporter

TOLL charges for crossing the Skye bridge were ruled lawful yesterday. Sheriff James Fraser rejected the argument of protesters charged with alleged non-payment of the crossing tolls when they appearing before him in Dingwall, Highland.

The court was packed by about 70 protesters who had marched through the town to the hearing led by a piper, carrying banners and waving flags.

Neil Murray, QC, counsel for 180 people so far facing charges of non-payment of the £4.30 toll, had earlier argued that the charge was incompetent under several statutory rules. The New Roads and Streets Act 1991, under which the tolls were charged, was contrary to the 1707 Treaty of Union between Scotland and England, he said. The tolls were a breach of the uniformity of legislation of the two countries. He had also argued that the Scottish Secretary was acting beyond his powers in introducing the toll order in 1992.

Sheriff Fraser ruled in favour of the Crown in test cases against three of the accused, and refused an immediate right to appeal. The sheriff said that anyone found guilty after a trial could take up the appeal process at the Court of Appeal.

After a short adjournment the court was read the names of all 184 accused, with the majority maintaining their pleas of not guilty. The trial of the first accused, George Anderson, will take place on April 11. The remainder were set for May 13, with an intermediate hearing on April 17.

Only eight people have so far pleaded guilty to non-payment of the tolls but sentencing has been deferred until the trial dates. As he left the bench after more than two hours, Sheriff Fraser told protesters: "Next week Dingwall will return to its normal humdrum — I will feel quite deprived."

The protesters assembled outside the courthouse before marching back to the town to their cars. One said: "Obviously we are disappointed at the sheriff's ruling but we are happy these questions have been asked for the benefit of the people of Scotland and those affected by the Skye bridge tolls."

Court backs change in night-flight noise

By A Staff Reporter

THE High Court ruled yesterday that the Government had not unlawfully changed its policy for restricting night noise at London's airports.

Mr Justice Jowitt ruled that the changes were not illegal, even though they could mean an increase in actual noise levels for residents, who complained that their health was being affected by sleepless nights. The decision was a defeat for six local authorities that brought the latest challenge in a long-running battle over night flights.

The judge refused leave to appeal and the councils are considering whether to apply directly to the Court of Appeal.

The authorities had asked the judge to declare that last year the Department of Transport had "unlawfully and unfairly" adopted a quota system that allowed for a blatant increase in noise levels, in spite of a 1988 undertaking that the Government would seek to improve the situation at Heathrow and Gatwick, or at least ensure that it got no worse.

Richard Gordon, QC, for the councils, said the Trade Secretary, while professing to adhere to the policy — taking as the benchmark for restrictions the noise levels for the summer of 1988 at Heathrow — had departed from it without giving residents a chance to make representations.

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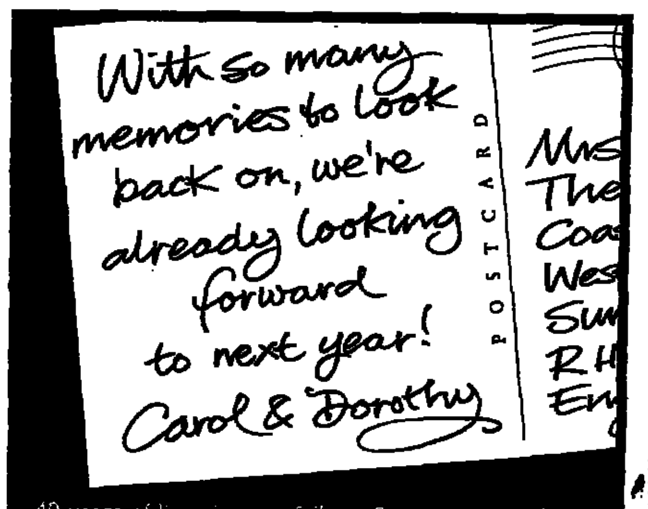
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مكتب الاعلام

Clarke contradicts Major over call for referendum

By Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent

KENNETH CLARKE and John Major were at odds last night over a referendum on a single European currency amid mounting ministerial anxiety about the prospect of a new rift in Downing Street.

Less than 24 hours after the Prime Minister had left MPs with the unmistakable impression that the Cabinet was close to backing a referendum, the Chancellor made plain that he had not surrendered.

In an ITN interview, Mr Clarke declared: "We did not decide anything on this yesterday." His remarks contrasted sharply with Mr Major's verdict that a referendum could be a "necessary step" in resolving Tory tensions over Europe and defusing the threat to marginal Conservative seats posed by Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party.

Sources said that Thursday's Cabinet had been the scene of a hard-fought debate in which Mr Clarke had argued strongly against a referendum. He was said to have been backed by John Gummer and Sir George Young but was heavily outnumbered.

Ministers are worried about provoking the Chancellor, one of the Cabinet's few heavyweights, although they doubt he would resign in protest. One source said: "He will have to accept it, though he will probably do so with ill grace. Chancellors do usually win, but not always. He's won the day on ruling out a single currency in the lifetime of the next Parliament, so he won't have been totally defeated."

It is also understood that the Cabinet agreed to do more work on the practicalities of a referendum. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, has been asked to report on whether ministers be allowed, as they were in 1975, to campaign for opposing sides, what the question would be, and if other European matters should also be subject to a referendum.

Mr Clarke's intervention coincided with a burst of backbench feuding. Sir Norman Fowler, the former Tory party chairman and a close ally of the Prime Minister, said a referendum was not just a Euro-sceptic cause.

The issue deserved a campaign of public debate, which a referendum would allow, he said. But Sir Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, and Hugh Dykes, Tory MP for Harrow East, denounced the idea.

Last night Sir James said that a referendum on a single currency would be an "empty gesture". He wanted a plebiscite that enabled the British people to choose between the original vision of a Europe of nations and the Maastricht blueprint for a superstate.

Letters, page 21

Scottish attempt to revive all-women shortlists

By Gillian Bowditch
Scotland Correspondent

LABOUR women will today put up a strong fight for a policy of compulsory all-women shortlists, which they see as their only chance to achieve equal representation in a Scottish parliament.

A passionate debate is expected this morning at the Scottish Labour Party conference in Edinburgh after signs that the party's pledge for 50 per cent representation of women in a Scottish parliament is in jeopardy.

Women members are optimistic that a strong signal in favour of women-only shortlists from Edinburgh will revive the debate at national level. The issue has been dropped since women-only shortlists were successfully challenged in January by two male party members at an industrial tribunal in Leeds. The National Executive Committee decided not to challenge the decision. Yesterday a senior Shadow Cabinet member said the policy for Scotland may have to be amended in the light of the tribunal ruling. "We will not necessarily renege on our commitment in the longer term but we might have to do it in a different way."

The present policy in Scotland is to achieve equal representation by "twinning" constituencies and choosing a male and a female candidate for each double seat. The candidate with the most votes would get first choice of the two seats.

Speaking at a fringe meeting on International Women's Day, Carmen McAteer, regional officer for the Manufacturing Science and Finance union, said: "I have huge reservations about twinned constituencies both politically and legally.

"We must continue to defend women-only shortlists. Unless there is some compulsory mechanism in place, gender balance in a Scottish parliament will not happen." She advocated amending the Sex Discrimination Act to exclude political parties.

Ann Pettifor, of the Labour Women's Action Committee, said that ignoring women would put the party at risk of losing the general election. "The Labour Party has a long history of denying women's rights and it is still happening. What we must do is demand women-only shortlists. If they want to challenge us they can take us to court."

☐ A resolution proposing a minimum wage of £4.15 an hour was defeated on the recommendation of the Scottish executive. The party leadership is keen to postpone any decision on a minimum wage until after the election.

IAN WALDIE

Tony Blair at the Scottish Labour Party conference yesterday with Catherine Taylor. She is Labour's youngest parliamentary candidate, at the age of 22, and will be standing for the constituency of Angus

Leasehold law to be reformed, says Government

By A Staff Reporter

THE much-criticised leasehold system will be reformed in the summer, ministers announced in the Commons yesterday. A government Bill will be published to introduce the concept of commonhold, Jonathan Evans, the junior Lord Chancellor's Department Minister, told MPs.

This would give new rights to people in blocks of flats sharing services and facilities. Flat-owners would own the freehold of their homes while the "commonhold association" would own and manage common parts of the building.

The announcement came as Jacqui Lait, the Tory MP for Hastings and Rye, sought to get a second reading for her backbench Bill on commonhold. Mr Evans said the Government agreed with Mrs Lait in principle but argued that more detailed legislation was needed and the Government would provide this in a full Bill later this year.

He was still speaking as time ran out for debate on Mrs Lait's measure, which goes back into the queue of backbench Bills. But Mr Evans told her that the Government was determined to bring in legislation to introduce the legal concept of commonholding. He said: "The Government is firmly committed to the implementation of commonhold. Proper legislation should be introduced as soon as possible."

Mr Evans said the move would allow homeowners in multi-occupier buildings to own the freehold interest in their homes and, at the same time, provide a management system for the whole development. He said homeowners resented the temporary nature of leasehold ownership and objected to paying ground rent when they owned property.

Mrs Lait said the existing system had raised endless problems with maintenance and repairs. Leaseholders had no control over the size of repair bills presented to them, found it difficult to purchase the freehold and disputes often led to an "intransigent standoff". She said: "There is a great deal of dissatisfaction with long leaseholding as a form of property holding."

The leasehold system was "under severe strain" and commonhold, which existed in many other countries, was a practical alternative. She said: "Commonhold is the missing part of English and Welsh property law."

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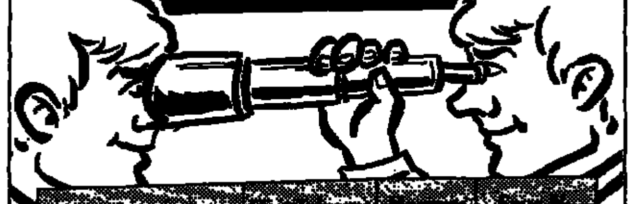

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TECHNOLOGY GONE SANE

Wales's oldest priest urges Church to rediscover mission

By Brenda Parry

THE oldest serving priest in Wales, who celebrates his ninetieth birthday tomorrow, believes the country should go down on its knees and confess to rid itself of its prevailing amoral attitudes.

The Ven Wallis Thomas, former Archdeacon of Merioneth, who describes himself as an extinct volcano, said that he regretted the falling numbers of churchgoers. "It is down to the Church to serve and bring in its congregations. I always believed a house-going parson made a church-going people."

Although the archdeacon officially retired in 1976, he still preaches regularly in and around the tiny North Wales parish of Llanelltyd, near Dolgellau, Gwynedd, where he lives, and is one of the most sought-after public speakers in Wales.

Tomorrow, elegant in ceremonial black, complete with gaiters, he is likely to upstage the Bishop of Bangor, the Rt Rev Barry Morgan, when he arrives in Llanelltyd to pay tribute to a man who has been in holy orders for 65 years, longer than the 49-year-old bishop's lifetime.

Mr Thomas — who for once is not preaching — will be greeted with champagne, cake, flowers and a banner across the village hall declaring: "Archdeacon Wallis Thomas, 90 not out". The parish's affection is reflected in the acronym he is happy to use of himself: a "Wotcha" (wonderful old thing considering his age).

He has always insisted on being close to his flock: "I was an inveterate visitor and I would go in the evening when I knew I would catch all the family at home," he said. "It was fine until I found myself competing with television and Cilla Black."

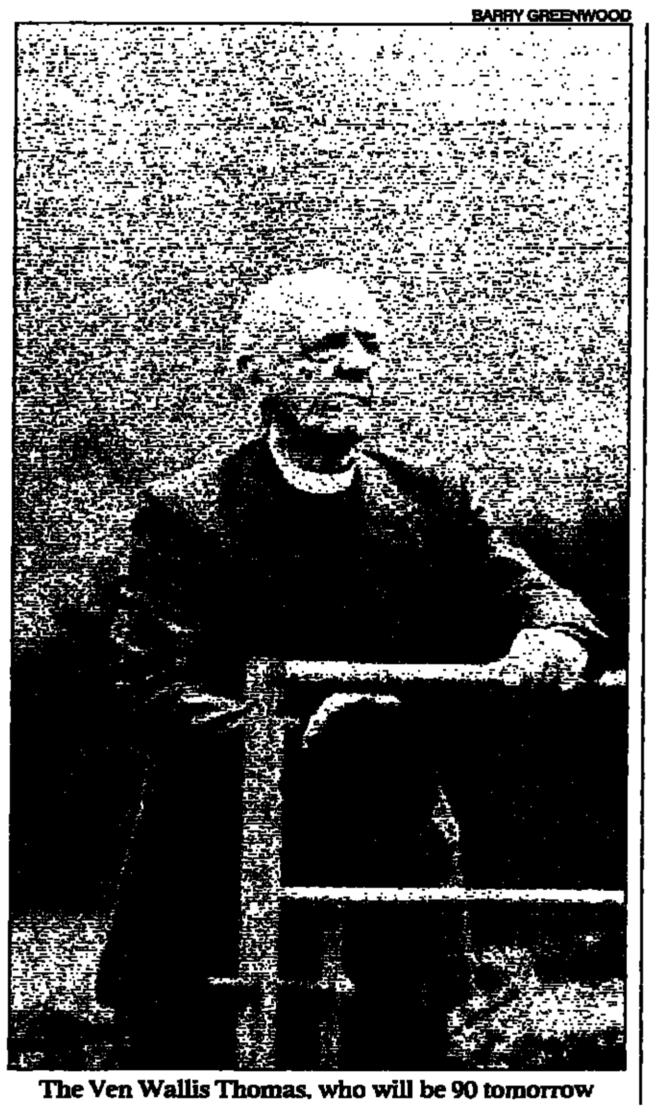
Apart from a stint as secretary and chaplain to the Archbishop of Wales at St David's Cathedral in Cardiff from 1938-46, he stayed in North Wales. He was rector of Barmouth from 1946-66 and Archdeacon of Merioneth from 1959-76.

He never married, having taken a vow of celibacy, a pledge which he came to regret. He has always been a favourite with the ladies; his clutch of admirers and the Llanelltyd congregation are popularly known as the "Wallis Collection".

If he were to have his time over again, he says he would certainly take holy orders, but adds that he would want a wife "to share everything with". He declines to oppose the ordination of women priests, saying many parsons are already old women; regrets the decline of the Ecumenical Movement; and advises young priests to try to love their congregation — even the difficult ones.

At Your Service, Weekend, page 3

BARRY GREENWOOD



The Ven Wallis Thomas, who will be 90 tomorrow

Common goals that give Christians a modern role

Credo

James Jones

HUGE billboards have invited us recently to watch football. The picture is of a stand filled with fans. The caption is "Songs of Praise". The advertising agency has clearly done its research and discovered that not only do more people watch this religious programme than watch football on television, but many more go to church than to stadiums every week.

This is not the only example of popular advertising borrowing positive images from religion to sell products. We have "born-again" cars, "evangelical" salesmen and multinational companies whose brochures boast a "mission" statement. While the Church agonises over the divide between the divine and the pagan, the secular is without embarrassment stealing and dressing itself up in religion's clothes. Not only does this show that the traffic between the Church and the world is surprisingly two-way; it questions the alleged chasm between the two.

Unfortunately Christians suffer from the disease, which afflicts so many, of talking down themselves and their ability to engage with modern culture. We are told that there has been such a sea-change in people's thinking, that it is no longer possible to communicate to the post-modern world the timeless truths of the Christian faith. We are told that in this relativistic climate it is no longer possible to speak of moral certainties.

Yet in this decade the so-called post-modern world has behaved with surprising moral certainty. It has revealed a captivity to absolute truth. When condemning, for example, the barbarities of apartheid, the post-modernists did not say they were relatively wrong. They did not concede that moral issues of justice depended on how you were brought up. The oppression of one race by another was not, and is not, relatively wrong, but absolutely wrong. Such was the worldwide recognition of these universal and absolute truths that a sovereign nation was forced to change.

The calling of the Christian (and in this they will find themselves accompanied by Jew and Muslim) is to help society to trace back its intuitions to the source of these expressions of moral truth, who speaks through creation, history and conscience.

Christians are in danger of losing their nerve by failing to recognise that there is still much common ground between the Church and the world. There is still a common law recognised in our civilisation. Indeed, no society believes that hatred is better than love, lying better than telling the truth, betrayal better than loyalty. Atheists and humanists subscribe to these values on the utilitarian grounds of social cohesion. Theists share them. Christians affirm them and point to the One who has given them authority and clarity through the Bible and eloquence through the exemplary human model of Jesus Christ.

We in the Church have to find and preach a new apologetic. Instead of imagining a chasm we must reconnoitre the common ground that is still there.

There is a spiritual instinct in us all. Like the other instincts it does not come to the fore all the time. But when it does, the seeker at the end of the second millennium is still ready to hear the story and the propositions that God so made, loves and forgives us that He sent His only son into the world to the end that all who believe in him should not die but live forever.

The evangelical meaning of such a mission statement from a born-again believer will not, I believe, be entirely lost on this generation. Who knows, it may even one day evoke songs of praise on the terraces.

☐ *The Right Rev James Jones is Bishop of Hull*

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Croat confesses helping Bosnian Serb soldiers in six-hour slaughter of 'troublesome people'

Execution squad 'massacred 1,200 Muslim civilians'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A FORMER Croat soldier in the Bosnian Serb army has confessed to participating in the massacre of Muslim civilians after the fall of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia last July.

Drazen Erdemovic, 25, told *Le Figaro* of Paris that, as part of an eight-man execution squad, he personally shot and killed 70 Muslims. He added that the squad murdered at least 1,200 people in less than six hours near the town of Pilice on July 20.

Mr Erdemovic, the first alleged Bosnian Serb soldier to offer such a confession, reportedly agreed to give evidence to the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague in exchange for assurances that he would not be punished and would be allowed to settle in the West with his family. Last Sunday, however, hours after speaking to Renaud Girard of *Le Figaro*, he and another Bosnian Serb soldier, Radovan Kremenovic, were arrested by Belgrade police.

On Thursday the U.S. State Department and Richard Goldstone, the chief war crimes prosecutor, pressed President Milosevic of Serbia to hand the men over to the tribunal in The Hague. Tanjug, the Yugoslav news agency, said Mr Erdemovic had been arrested as part of a war crimes investigation. If his claims prove correct, the Pilice massacre would be the worst single atrocity in Europe since the Second World War.

Mr Erdemovic, who is a native of Tuzla and has a half-Serbian wife, was one of a small number of Croats to serve in the Bosnian Serb army commanded by General Ratko Mladic. In January of last year he joined a special 80-man unit known as the "Tenth Diversion Commando" with responsibility for "eliminating troublesome people" and "sabotage behind enemy lines". The unit was led by Lieutenant Milorad Pelemis, who is suspected of involvement in "ethnic cleansing" in 1992. On July 20, nine days after the fall of Srebrenica, Mr Erdemovic and seven other members of the unit were reportedly told to assemble at the military barracks in Zvornik. They were then taken to a state farm outside the village of Pilice. The soldiers were armed with Kalashnikovs and an M84 Soviet machinegun.

A first busload of about 60 male Muslim prisoners, aged between 17 and 50, arrived soon afterwards. In groups of ten, they were brought out and shot by the Bosnian Serb squad, commanded by Brano Gojkovic. "When the men in the second group arrived in front of the dead bodies, they begged us 'Don't shoot us! Our families in Austria will send you money'," Mr Erdemovic said. "Some insulted us. Others chanted 'Allahu akbah' (God is greatest)."

He claimed that he turned to another member of the squad, a fellow Croat, and remarked "God knows, this is going to rebound on us one day."

"Shut up," his friend said. "If you don't, it will be our turn. We are only Croats."

Mr Gojkovic, the squad leader who had reportedly consumed quantities of brandy, "decided to use the machinegun to speed things up", Mr Erdemovic said. But, instead of being killed outright, many prisoners were merely wounded by the machinegun fire. "The injured begged us to finish them off," Mr Erdemovic said. The Serb bus drivers, according to Mr Erdemovic, "were terrified, but Gojkovic made them kill at least one Muslim each. That way they wouldn't be tempted to confess later."

The massacre, he said, lasted from ten in the morning until 3.30 in the afternoon. "I didn't count them, but I would say around 1,200 Muslims were killed," he told *Le Figaro*.

The victims were all reportedly men who, in order to stay with their families after the fall of Srebrenica, had not tried to escape but instead sought refuge with Dutch United Nations peacekeepers. They were then handed over to the Bosnian Serb forces "without a shot being fired", according to *Le Figaro*. The women and children were driven away towards Tuzla and the men were taken to Zvornik.

Le Figaro's reporter said he met Mr Erdemovic and a Mr Kramenkovic, a Bosnian Serb who was also a member of the Tenth Diversion Commando, last Saturday near Belgrade. The two had reportedly fallen out violently with Lieutenant Pelemis, the unit leader, and last month they decided to give evidence at the war crimes tribunal and went into hiding.

After hearing Mr Erdemovic's confession, *Le Figaro's* reporter said he arranged to meet the two men the next morning and lent them his car to return to Becej. When they did not appear as arranged, he travelled to Mr Kramenkovic's home. There he was told that a police unit had arrived from Belgrade at 3.00 that morning to arrest the men. The house had been searched and the telephone lines cut. Their present whereabouts are unknown.

More than 7,000 people from the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica are still listed as missing.

☐ **The Hague:** The war crimes tribunal yesterday confirmed that it had charged former police inspector Milan Martic, former leader of separatist Serbs in the Krajina region of Croatia, with war crimes and had issued an international warrant for his arrest. Mr Martic is charged with ordering rocket attacks on civilians in Zagreb on May 2 and 3 last year. *(Reuter)*

Some of the thousands of Bosnian Muslim women refugees from the fallen UN "safe area" of Srebrenica who staged a protest march in Tuzla yesterday to demand international action to find their menfolk, missing since the enclave was seized by Bosnian Serbs last July

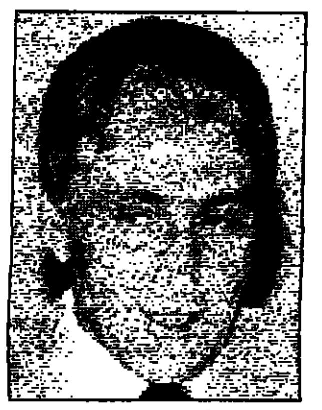
Left-wing Mayors prepare to occupy Italy's seats of power

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN NAPLES

THE Italian elections next month will be the "last gasp" of the Old Guard before a "new ruling class" of younger, left-wing politicians comes to Rome from the provinces, according to Antonio Bassolino, the Mayor of Naples.

Signor Bassolino has been called the "Tony Blair of Italy" and a future Prime Minister. He predicted in an interview that the new leaders would be drawn from the directly elected Mayors of the big Italian cities, such as Naples, Venice and Turin, all of whom are from the Left.

Speaking in his office overlooking the port of Naples, Signor Bassolino, 48, said Italy's Mayors derived their authority from the fact that they were directly elected for the first time in 1993. The new rules were part of a root-and-branch electoral reform intended to give Italian politics a fresh start after the 1992 "Clean Hands" anti-corruption campaign, which swept the Christian Democrats from power after 40 years. But national elections have still produced unstable coalitions.


Bassolino: time for new "ruling class" to rule

In the grandeur of the Mayor's office, Signor Bassolino looks what he is: a wiry, energetic, working-class activist with a lifelong career in the local Communist Party machine. But the Communist Party is now the Party of the Democratic Left and he has won widespread admiration for his successful campaign to clean up Naples, revive civic pride and improve its image internationally.

He emphasises that he intends to remain Mayor until his term ends next year. "If they asked me to go to Rome right now, I would say 'No, thanks' ... but then we shall see." He believes the Centre-Left, led by Romano Prodi, has "a good chance" of winning the election on April 21.

But the centrist leaders, including Lamberto Dini, the caretaker Prime Minister for the past 15 months, he said, are too closely associated with the "old Italy". Although Signor Dini "has governed well", the left-wing Mayors have shown "that they can run things better than Rome. We have forged a team of men who can govern the country, and who have earned its trust."

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Russia sends more troops into Grozny to flush out rebels

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA sent reinforcements into the embattled city of Grozny yesterday to suppress a three-day offensive by Chechen rebels that has again proved President Yeltsin's vulnerability to the war on his southern rim.

Last night gunfire intensified as Russian troops mounted "search and destroy" missions against rebel fighters. Russian television showed armoured vehicles, including at least one tank, guarding the headquarters of the Moscow-installed Government in the centre of the Chechen capital to emphasise that the offensive by fighters loyal to Dzhokhar Dudayev, the separatist leader, had failed. It said troops were combing the city to flush out rebel gunmen.

A column of tanks and armoured personnel carriers came under heavy fire from the rebels when it drove down Lenin Avenue, the city's main thoroughfare, which is only a few hundred yards from the centre and the former presidential palace. Buildings along the street are still in ruins after the aerial bombardment it suffered a year ago.

Grozny's main hospital, which was still functioning despite lack of running water, received several dozen new patients during the day suffering from bullet and shrapnel wounds, according to the doctor, Timur Alkhazov. Most were civilians and at least six people had died the previous day, he said.

The Russians estimate that 1,500 fighters attacked Grozny on Wednesday in a surprise dawn raid that gave them control of the southern half of the city almost instantly. Television reports said that 200 soldiers at a command post in southern Grozny were still surrounded by the separatists. Adopting traditional Chechen hit-and-run tactics, the fighters appeared to be retreating before the Russians had time to inflict heavy casualties.

Even if they are pulling back, the separatists have succeeded in their main aim, which was to launch a spectacular attack right in the heart of enemy territory to coincide with President Yeltsin's announcement of a new peace plan. The Chechen fighters make up for their lack of weapons and numbers with rapid mobility and high morale. The battle proves that no place in the republic is safe from sudden strikes by Chechen fighters.

President Yeltsin has been unveiling parts of a new "peace plan" for the breakaway republic this week, but has been vague on the details. Moscow is still refusing to talk to General Dudayev, calling him a terrorist, while the general refuses to talk to the pro-Moscow Chechen Government in Grozny.

Goya lost souls see light

An unknown painting by the Spanish master Goya, discovered in a disused room, where it was locked away for 100 years, delights Alberto Ruiz Gallardón, Madrid's regional president. The painting was found by workmen renovating a Madrid government building ten days ago. It was propped against a wall in a small room where gifts to local government officials were stored. Museum curators say the painting depicts the Holy Trinity, the Virgin Mary and souls in purgatory.

How the 8ft by 6ft painting got into the second-storey room in Madrid's regional government headquarters is a mystery. Inscribed on the back of the canvas is a message ordering its restoration at Madrid General Hospital in 1865. It is thought to have been painted in the 1780s. (*AP*)

Springbok emblem 'a sign of racist past'

BY INIGO GILMORE

PLANS by South Africa's National Sports Council to drop the Springbok emblem from the national rugby jersey, despite calls for its retention from the country's best known rugby supporter, President Mandela, have met a storm of protest.

A commission of inquiry found the Springbok "deeply offensive" to many because of past associations with racial discrimination, racial dominance and privilege. It recommended it be replaced with the King Protea, the flower already used by the cricket team.

To the horror of thousands of rugby fans the recommendation is expected to be ratified later this month. The team's symbol since 1905 could disappear before the world champions play Australia and New Zealand later this year.

Only last year Mr Mandela admitted he had supported the Springboks' opponents until 1993.

England team, page 45

Xhosa chiefs end 'circus' by seizing skull for DNA test

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

JUST days after his triumphant return to South Africa from Scotland with what he claimed was the skull of a royal ancestor killed by British troops, Chief Nicholas Gcaleka has lost his head.

Xhosa tribal chiefs have seized the skull which Chief Gcaleka claims is that of King Hintsa, the Xhosa ruller killed during the Sixth Frontier War in 1835, insisting that it must undergo DNA testing to establish its authenticity.

King Xolilizwe Sigcau, Paramount Chief Maxhobayakawuleza Sandile and about 30 other chiefs agreed to take the skull to the police mortuary at Willowvale in the Eastern Cape for safe-keeping until tests are carried out. They will meet representatives from the provincial government next week to arrange for foreign scientists to examine it.

Chief Gcaleka claimed to have been guided to the skull on a farm in Scotland by visionary dreams.

But Mda Mda, a spokesman for the chiefs, told the gathering: "By taking the head we are preventing him from indulging in this circus, displaying this head about as he goes around. He claims to be acting on behalf of the Xhosa nation, so he should be happy to hand it over."

Chief Gcaleka, wearing a skullcap with long pieces of beaded cloth, red tunic and long socks, said: "I am not very happy with the taking of the skull without my permission. I have been suffering all my life trying to get this head back."

The controversy over the find in Inverness took a new turn this week when the Xhosa King refused to sanction the planned burial of the skull because, he said, it was not the head of Hintsa. King Sigcau said Chief Gcaleka's skull displayed a bullet hole above the right ear and was intact, whereas historical records indicated Hintsa was shot at point-blank range behind the left ear and his head was shattered.

The King has urged South Africans not to be fooled by Chief Gcaleka and dismissed his proud lineage claims. Chief Gcaleka insists, however, that he is the great-great nephew of Hintsa.

Chief Gcaleka has called on President Mandela to intervene. But the President's spokesman said: "The President feels the Xhosa chiefs are quite capable of handling the matter."

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Springbok emblem 'a sign of racist past

صورة عن الاصل

Iran voters pass judgment on economic chaos

BY MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

Iranian women gather around a ballot box at a shrine, in the holy city of Qom, to martyrs of the war with Iraq

PRESIDENT RAFSANJANI warned Iranians to brace themselves for a propaganda war with the United States and Israel over allegations of terrorism amid voting for a new parliament yesterday.

American pressure to isolate Iran for alleged involvement in the wave of suicide bombings in Israel would backfire, he said, after casting his vote at a Tehran mosque.

The US and Israel are urging Europe and Japan to join Washington's efforts to choke the crisis-hit Iranian economy, a prospect Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani must dread as he looks for foreign investment for his industrialisation programmes.

The economy has been the main issue in a low-key campaign which has pitted conservative clerics promising to retain state subsidies against modernisers who back the President's free-market reforms. These have proved painful for many Iranians.

European diplomats in Tehran said more people voted than had been expected. Iranians can vote out a Government but not the system of rule: all candidates for the 270-seat parliament were screened by a clerical body which rejected more than 30 per cent of the 5,000 hopefuls.

Nothing has eroded loyalty to the Islamic regime more than its mishandling of the economy, which Ayatollah Khomeini once dismissed as a subject fit only for donkeys. However, Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani has surrounded himself with Western-educated technocrats who are at loggerheads with the poorly educated religious apparatchiks often promoted to top posts in industry and management.

Factionalism has given rise to paralysis and confusion in Tehran, of which the response to the Hamas suicide bombings in Israel is symptomatic.

The official Iranian news agency, controlled by hardliners in the Islamic Guidance Ministry, hailed the bombings as "divine retribution". But the Foreign Ministry yesterday categorically denied any involvement in, or support for, incidents in "occupied Palestine", which it said were rooted in the policies and practices of the "Zionist regime".

Clinton takes lead in Middle East anti-terror drive

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON will attend a hastily arranged summit meeting of world leaders on Wednesday in an attempt to isolate supporters of the Hamas bombing campaign in Israel and restore some momentum to the Middle East peace process.

The White House, designating the meeting "a summit of the peacemakers", said the US had been urged by Israel and Jordan to sponsor the joint talks at Sharm el-Sheikh, an Egyptian resort on the southern tip of the Sinai peninsula.

Mike McCurry, the White House press secretary, said: "The summit will discuss ways to enhance Arab-Israeli peace, to promote security and to combat terror . . . We expect that it will be a day of reaffirmation, both for the peace process and for the need to do everything governments can do in the international community to combat terror."

According to diplomatic sources, about 30 leaders have been invited. The guest list includes President Chirac of France, King Husain of Jordan and President Yeltsin of Russia. It was uncertain yesterday whether John Major had been invited, and whether President Assad of Syria would attend. But Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Qatar were some of the Arab states likely to participate.

The idea for the Sinai summit had been broached by President Mubarak of Egypt and was strongly backed by Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, in a telephone call to Mr Clinton on Monday. King Husain of Jordan also encouraged American involvement when he met Mr Clinton at the White House this week. Yassir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, was said to have given his backing.

The Administration hopes that the gathering, and Mr Clinton's personal participation, will not merely send a universal signal of condemnation of the four suicide bombings in Israel, but will strengthen the political standing of Mr Peres at home.

The summit is also intended to demonstrate an international commitment to isolate nations that support terrorism, and to muster aid for Mr Arafat on the basis that he is trying to break up terrorist rings in the region. Despite a growing sense of dissatisfaction among Jews in America over Mr Arafat's apparent inability to deliver peace, Mr Clinton said the PLO chairman had "made some real efforts" to curb the violence.

The invitation to Mr Assad places Syria in a difficult position. He could refuse to attend, in which case his country will probably remain on the State Department list of nations which sponsor terrorism and his campaign to persuade Israel to return the Golan Heights to Syrian control will be undermined. He could attend and make no commitments, or he could participate and commit himself to crushing known terrorist cells in Damascus, which he has always avoided.

The White House and State Department had been considering the idea all week but, as recently as Wednesday, felt there had to be a productive outcome if the summit were to proceed. Finally, it was decided that the impact of Mr Clinton's presence would be "a physical statement of solidarity with the Israelis".

Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, will stay in the region to exploit what Washington hopes will be new momentum arising from the conference.

Mubarak: broached idea for Sinai summit

Red Sea resort is a haven of hope

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

SHARM el-Sheikh, described in its leading tourist hotel's brochure as "our sunny Paradise", is far removed from the teeming slums and refugee camps that have bred Islamic terrorism. Yet world leaders will gather at the resort next Wednesday for their first global anti-terrorist conference.

Perched on the Red Sea's shores and coral reefs, 300 miles from Cairo on the southernmost tip of the Sinai peninsula, Sharm was chosen because of its relative security and its symbolism as a place where Middle East peace could be seen to work.

Captured by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War, it was returned to Egypt as part of the "land for peace" deal that led to the Camp David peace treaty in 1979, setting the model for the more recent attempts to cement lasting stability in the region.

Before its seizure by Israeli troops, it had been neglected by Cairo. Since its return, it has blossomed into one of the most expensive and imaginatively developed resorts in the Red Sea area.

With its gleaming new international casino (out of bounds to Egyptians), palm-fringed beaches filled with scantily clad European sunseekers, and hedonistic atmosphere, the resort is light-years from the fundamentalist teachings and social ills that have encouraged groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

"Charming Sharm", as Egyptian tour operators call it, is a good example of peace working: Israeli tourists are among the visitors, flights arriving direct from Tel Aviv.

Oldest church in Christendom comes to light in Lebanon

FROM PENNY YOUNG IN TYRE

ARCHAEOLOGISTS in Lebanon say they have uncovered the site of the earliest church known in Christendom. It is hoped the discovery will give a boost to the country's tourist industry, decimated by years of civil war.

The excavations have been going on secretly in Tyre for the past few months. There are reports that gold crowns, plates and cups engraved with crosses, an altar and a passageway which would have connected the church to nearby buildings, have been uncovered.

The Cathedral of Bishop Paulinus was built in the 4th century in the port city of Tyre in ancient Phoenicia, now southern Lebanon, after the Roman Emperor, Constantine the Great, issued the ordinance of Milan on June 13, AD 313. This legalised the Christian religion and restored confiscated lands and property.

The Christian community in Tyre must have been quick off the mark because shortly afterwards, the historian Eusebius of Caesarea attended the opening of Paulinus's church and wrote down his speech, which included a description of the church's structure and furnishings, for posterity. It is the earliest known account of a Christian church, although Eusebius makes clear it was built on the site of an even earlier one destroyed during the Christian persecution. He describes the strong defensive walls enclosing the site with a magnificent porch facing east, covered walks, fountains in which visitors could wash, decorated gates, columns, brass decorations, wooden screens, marble pavements and a ceiling made from cedars of Lebanon.

It was the finest church in Phoenicia, he wrote. "I deem it superfluous to describe here the length and breadth of the edifice and its brilliant beauty. No words can express the magnitude or the dazzling appearance of the workmanship."

The site is tucked away in a back street in the centre of modern Tyre, surrounded by new concrete apartment and office blocks. It had been earmarked by a developer but antiquities experts sought permission to dig first. Visitors to the site can see the remains of the columns, plinths and marble floors, and it is just yards away from one of the largest Roman hippodromes in the world.

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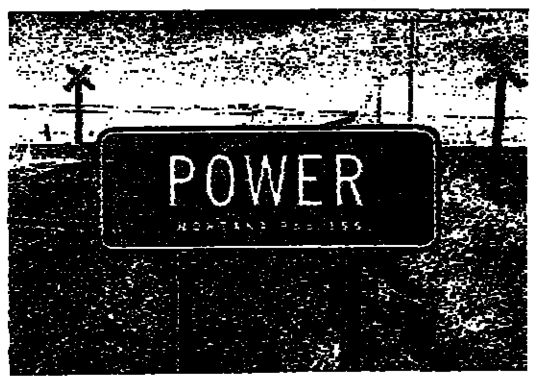

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President Lee assures his people 'bullet is empty' as Peking aims to bury ideas of independence

Chinese missiles target elections in fearful Taiwan

From James Pringle in Peking

CHINA launched three ballistic missiles into the seas off Taiwan yesterday, spreading alarm across East Asia and beyond, as Chinese leaders pointedly warned an increasingly fearful Taiwanese population against moving towards independence.

One of the M9 surface-to-surface missiles, which have a range of 372 miles, landed in waters just 20 nautical miles off the important northeast port of Keelung, near the Taiwanese capital of Taipei, and another 30 nautical miles off the busy southwestern port of Kaohsiung.

The missiles apparently had unarmed warheads and none has so far caused damage, all landing within designated target areas. A lighthouse-keeper on a headland near Keelung said he heard the first missile crashing like an "exploding tyre" into the ocean soon after midnight.

There was immediate international condemnation, with the United States calling the tests "provocative and reckless" and Britain joining the chorus of protest, which some countries said could threaten Asian stability. Britain said it was concerned by the firings so close to Taiwan. "We believe this will further heighten tension in the region," a spokesman said. "There is a real possibility of a miscalculation leading to confrontation."

In Peking, President Jiang Zemin said China would not halt its struggle to reunify with Taiwan until the leaders of the island abandoned their bid for independence. "Our struggle will not stop so long as Taiwan authorities do not cease activities to split the motherland," the official Xinhua news agency quoted Mr Jiang as saying.

"During a recent period of time, new complexities have emerged in relations across the Taiwan Strait and they have aroused great concern among people of the whole nation," said Mr Jiang, who in the past has reportedly been criticised by senior military figures for being soft on Taiwan.

Qian Qichen, the Foreign Minister, told the 21 million people of the island, which Peking regards as a renegade province despite the fact it has gone its own way for almost 50 years, not to panic over the "military exercises," but spoke of a "real disaster" if they supported independence. China has never given up the option of reunifying with Taiwan by force if necessary.

US warship to watch exercise

Tokyo: The aircraft carrier *USS Independence*, based in Japan, has been dispatched from its home port near here to waters near Okinawa and Taiwan for a week to monitor the Chinese missile tests near the island, NHK radio said. The report said a task force centred on the aircraft carrier would also study the performance of the Chinese M9 missiles.

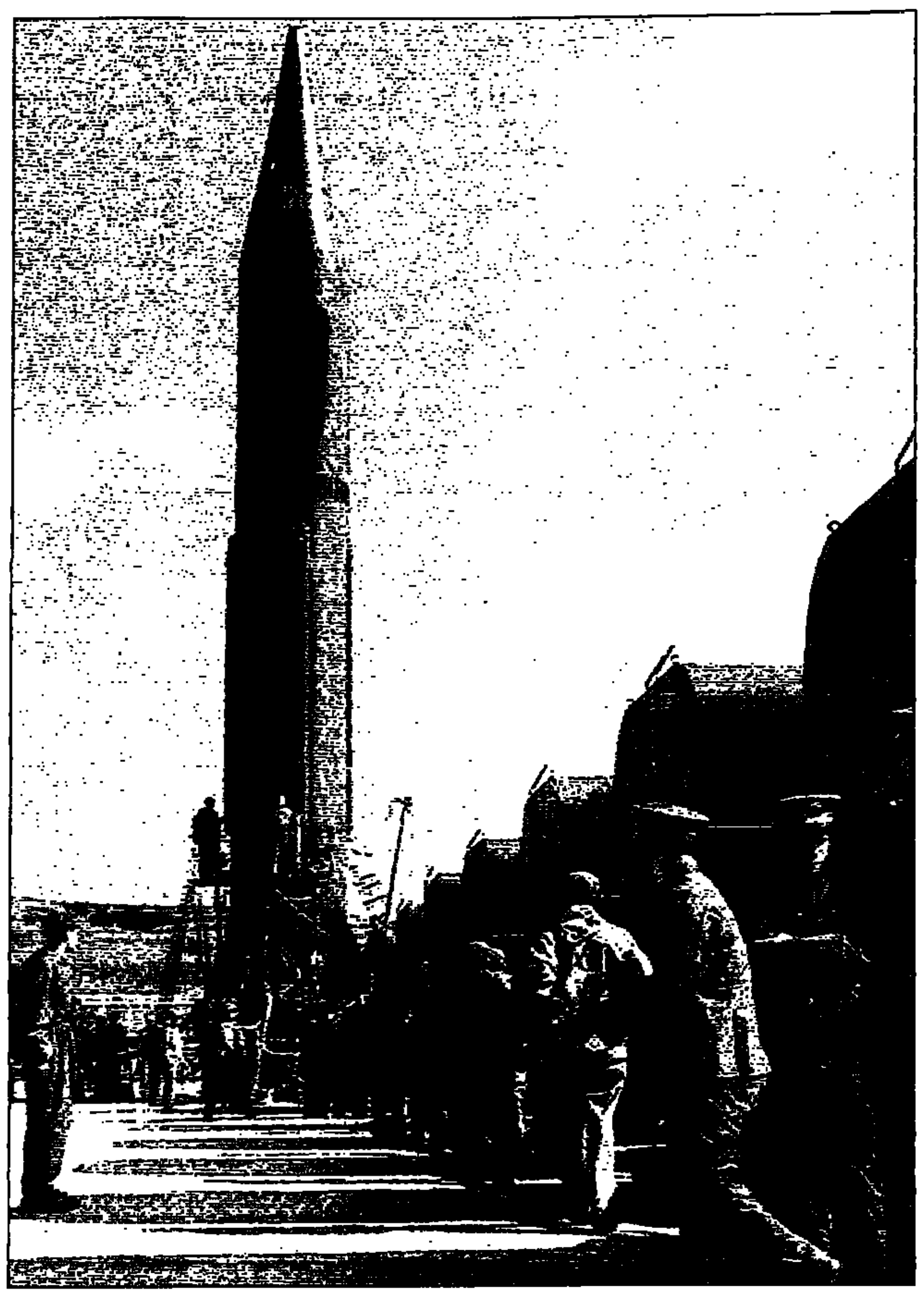
Peking has said that the missile firings, which are believed to come from near a base at Nanking, would continue until March 15, eight days before the first direct presidential elections in Taiwan. China has accused Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui, whose Nationalist Party formally supports a unified China, of secretly seeking independence. Mr Lee says he favours eventual reunification, but in the framework of a more democratic China.

The missile tests are also designed, envoys say, to influence the result of the elections, drawing support away from President Lee to politicians favouring unity with China.

The spectre of Taiwanese independence haunts Peking, which was furious last summer when Mr Lee made a private, high-profile visit to America, and has criticised Washington for giving him a visa and also for continued US arms sales to Taiwan.

Japan, meanwhile, said it had sent a large patrol boat to the area to ensure the safety of maritime navigation. In Taipei, there was a run on banks as Taiwanese withdrew savings in American dollars. After some clients pulled out their life savings, some banks limited withdrawals to $2,000. Elsewhere, people were reportedly stocking up on tinned food in case China imposed a blockade of the island.

Taiwanese defence sources believe a force of 150,000 troops has built up in Fujian province opposite Taiwan as part of planned manoeuvres likely to include beach assaults — a hint of an invasion, though military experts say China has not enough ships to launch a full-scale seaborne assault on Taiwan in the near future.


Chinese troops take part in a missile drill before the current test firings began

Fujian officials this week barred correspondents from visiting the frontline province until the end of March. On the Taiwan side, there were few tourists yesterday on Matsu island, uncomfortably near the mainland.

Most military analysts, both in Peking and in Taiwan, believe China has no short-term intention of invading Taiwan, but no one is quite certain how Taiwan itself will respond if its territory is hit by a missile — and China's record in rocketry is not a particularly good one.

There was also the possibility that an incident in the straits, such as between naval vessels of both sides, could escalate rapidly out of control. "The situation is very volatile," said one foreign military attaché in Peking.

Appeals for calm by President Lee, who was yesterday campaigning for the forthcoming elections, have been heeded to some extent by institutions, if not by ordinary citizens. Mr Lee called the tests "just a show" and told people not to worry. "It is a test to see if we have courage, an attempt to make us afraid, just a bluff," he said, adding: "The bullet is empty."

For its part, America has adopted a posture of "strategic ambiguity", so as to keep both China and Taiwan guessing. "If Peking feels the US won't enter the fray, they may escalate the confrontation, but they don't know the real American position, so are likely to remain cautious," said one envoy. He added: "Part of the reason for these missile firings is an effort by China to test American resolve. Of course, any future American intervention would have incalculable consequences."

Island caught between two states of mind

By Marc Weller

Taiwan looks like a state, talks like a state, acts like a state; but, according to the formal position of most governments around the world, it is most definitely not a state. This paradox strains common sense and logic just as much as it poses a dilemma for the authorities in Taipei.

When the defeated Nationalists under Chiang Kai-shek withdrew to the island of Formosa in 1949, they created the fiction that they were the only government for all of China.

To this day Taiwan maintains that there is one China, the old Republic of China, which is exclusively represented by Taipei. However, in a recent policy shift, Taiwan now accepts that its jurisdiction does not extend to mainland China, which is under de facto administration from Peking.

Therefore, Taipei already claims to represent an independent state. The controversy with the People's Republic of China relates to the prospect that it might abandon the "One China" policy hitherto shared by both entities and declare itself independent as Taiwan.

Taipei was able to maintain its position while it could rely on unambiguous support from Washington, including the US Seventh Fleet. However, since the 1950s more and more states have recognised the People's Republic and its claim over all of China.

Peking insisted that such recognition had to be coupled with a severing of diplomatic relations with Taiwan, which it merely considers to be one of its 22 provinces.

When President Nixon met Chairman Mao Tse-tung in Peking in 1972, he confirmed that "there is but one China and Taiwan is part of China".

On January 1, 1979, the White House "transferred" recognition from Taipei to Peking and terminated its defence treaty with Taiwan, while pledging continued resistance to "any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardise the security of the people on Taiwan".

This continuing relationship is difficult to explain in legal terms. If there is only one China which includes Taiwan, and if Peking is the only Government in China, then it would be fully entitled to test missiles as close to the shore of one of its provinces as it wishes, or to assert its authority over the rebellious territory by force of arms if necessary.

In fact, not even the United States appears to have argued strongly that the threat or use of force against Taiwan constitutes a violation of international law.

Instead, the Washington Administration had indicated that such "provocative and reckless" action would conflict with the political commitment to a peaceful reunification of China, and indeed would amount to a threat to the region's stability.

This position overlooks that Taiwan has administered a defined territory and population independently for nearly half a century.

It is still recognised by about 30 states as the Republic of China and maintains informal relations with an even larger number of governments.

Whether one considers Taiwan the legal successor of the Republic of China, or as the sole, effective authority in Taiwan, it has the right to a separate legal existence undisturbed by threats of force, if it so chooses.

☐ *Marc Weller is an assistant director of studies at the Centre for International Studies in the University of Cambridge, where he lectures in law*

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US museum offers $1m to lure 'real' killers of Kennedy

From Ian Brodie in Dallas

JUST up the street from the spot where President Kennedy was shot, a museum is offering a reward of $1 million (£653,000) for the "real killers" to come forward.

The Conspiracy Museum is devoted to uncovering what its private sponsors believe was an over-arching plot linking the three assassinations of President Kennedy, his brother Robert, and Martin Luther King with a collection of other foul deeds.

The museum has declared this to be the "Year of the Canary". It will pay the reward to anyone who is prepared to "sing" about the alleged plots. In a matter of days, 118 people have applied.

All but four have been eliminated, including those who were not even born when Kennedy was killed in Dallas in November 1963. The four will be carefully evaluated, said Tommy Bowden, director of the Conspiracy Museum.

He hopes to find a greybeard out there, perhaps in failing health, whose conscience is gnawing at him. This person, perhaps a former CIA agent, must be eager to make a clean breast of the cover-up, Mr Bowden said.

He explained that payment of the money, donated from private sources, would depend on verification of the claimant's information.

There is, of course, the slight problem that anyone admitting guilt would be unable to spend the million dollars on account of being arrested. To try to avoid this misfortune, Mr Bowden has sent a written request for immunity from prosecution, for what it is worth, to the authorities who investigated the Kennedy and King deaths in Dallas, Los Angeles and Memphis.

Mr Bowden, who once did contract work for the CIA, elaborates on Oliver Stone's theory in the film *JFK*. To hear him tell it, the CIA, FBI, Mafia, world financiers, warmongers and certain White House aides were all secretly involved in a giant cabal to keep America's defence industries humming profitably.

This "professional war machine" saw the Kennedys and Dr King as a threat. Among their other misdeeds, so the theory goes, the plotters arranged the death of Mary Jo Kopechne at Chappaquiddick to keep Senator Edward Kennedy out of the White House and the shooting down of Korean Airlines Flight 007 to prolong the Cold War.

The suppositions are taken even further by the museum's main backer, R.B. Cutler, a wealthy retired architect. In his view, Lee Harvey Oswald was actually a lookalike impostor named Alex Hidell, a CIA-trained spy, and three men shot Kennedy.

It costs $7, the equivalent of £4.60, to visit the small museum. On the way out, a bookstall has shelves of conspiracy volumes and, appropriately, copies of *Paranoia* magazine.

Kennedy: seen as victim of "war machine" plot

King: theorists link his death to other foul deeds

Animal activists score in sled race

From James Bone in New York

THE world's most famous dog-sled race was plunged into controversy this week when a popular five-time champion was expelled for violating a new "dead-dog" rule imposed at the insistence of animal rights groups.

Rick Swenson was disqualified from the 1,150-mile trans-Alaska Iditarod after losing a three-year-old female husky named Ariel as his team passed the Yentna River about 100 miles into the race.

The expulsion of the veteran "musher", as the dog racers are known, provoked howls of protest from fans critical of the new rule adopted to protect race-dogs from overwork. The "dead dog" rule, instituted after two dogs died in last year's race, requires the disqualification of any musher who loses a dog unless the animal dies from an "external" cause, such as a collision with a moose.

Other contestants said Mr Swenson was known for the care he lavished on his dogs, and noted that he had never lost one in 20 years of competing in the Iditarod.

"He's the best dog-care person I've ever been around, and anybody here will tell you the same thing," said Charlie Boulding, another Iditarod contestant. "For it to bite him shows it's a screwy rule."

Mr Swenson's dog died as his sled ploughed through flood water on top of the frozen Yentna River. Mr Swenson, who was in fifth place, tried unsuccessfully to revive the dog for 15 minutes.

Judges reluctantly disqualified him even though a post-mortem examination failed to establish the cause of death. "I can tell you, it was a gut-wrenching decision for everyone involved," Matt Desalernos, president of the Iditarod Trail Committee, wrote in the local newspaper.

Mr Swenson declared that he would not race in the Iditarod again until the new rule had been repealed. "There are other dog races in the world," he said on Alaskan radio. "The Iditarod has become a circus. A lot of people who don't understand mushing are running the race."

REX

Racers urging their teams on in the 1,150-mile trans-Alaska Iditarod this week

Small-time crooks fill prisons of California

From Giles Whittell in Los Angeles

CALIFORNIA'S draconian "three strikes and you're out" law has led to life sentences for twice as many non-violent drug offenders as for rapists, murderers and kidnappers combined, a new report said.

Designed to deter violent criminals or take them off the streets for life, the law has instead clogged the state's prisons with small-time marijuana smokers.

In the two years since it was passed on a wave of public anger over violent crime, the "three-strikes" law has meant life in prison for 192 marijuana users who would previously have served little or no time. In the same period, 40 convicted murderers, 25 rapists and 24 kidnappers have been sentenced to life.

The figures were obtained from the California Department of Corrections, which runs the prisons, but were ignored in its own progess report released by Pete Wilson, the Governor, at a press conference last week.

The law had resulted in the jailing of 15,300 repeat offenders, Governor Wilson said. He was seeking support for a bond issue to raise $2.2 billion (£1.43 billion) that the state needs to build more prisons.

It fell to San Francisco's liberal-leaning Centre on Juvenile and Criminal Justice to point out that the new law is having a greater impact on non-violent than violent crime. The group also reported that 43 per cent of those sentenced under the "three-strikes" provision were black, even though blacks make up only 7 per cent of the state's population. "If one were writing a law to deliberately target blacks, one could scarcely have done it more effectively than 'three strikes'," Vincent Schiraldi, author of the rival report told *The New York Times*.

The state now spends more on prisons than it does on higher education, and one man, Jerry Dewayne Williams, is serving a life sentence for stealing a slice of pizza.

Dole bandwagon rolls on as rivals rebuff appeal to pull out

From Tom Rhodes in Washington

DRIVEN by the powerful juggernaut of the Republican Party, Robert Dole routed his competitors in New York and yesterday swaggered towards the "Super Tuesday" primaries with an iron grip on the presidential nomination.

Mr Dole, surmounting a vigorous challenge from Steve Forbes, the multimillionaire publisher, took all 93 delegates in the richest prize yet of the primary season. Pat Buchanan, the conservative commentator who had plagued the Kansas senator in earlier contests, was left with just 14 per cent of the vote.

Despite his most convincing victory, the eleventh consecutive primary in the past six days that Mr Dole has won, there was no evidence that his rivals would withdraw soon from the race. Entreaties from Mr Dole that both Mr Forbes and Mr Buchanan unite behind him to concentrate their efforts against the re-election campaign of President Clinton provoked unfriendly fire from both camps.

Mr Forbes, who had spent $1 million (£653,000) to overcome the obstacles put up by the New York Republican Party to keep him off the ballot, said the Dole triumph was a tribute to party machinery rather than message. Mr Buchanan, who had spent only four hours in New York and found little support among an electorate which views his candidature as too extreme, said he was not concerned about the loss but had turned all his efforts to the South. Nonetheless, both candidates left the Empire State weakened by a result that had proved the power of Mr Dole's organisation.

Despite a low turnout, Republican Party workers under the whip of Senator Alfonse D'Amato, the local senator, had driven voters to the polls through ice storms and snow to ensure a victory beyond doubt.

In a victory speech, Mr Dole turned his guns on the Clinton White House. "In January, Bill Clinton spoke to us from the White House and said: 'The era of big government is over.' Tonight New York spoke to the White House and said 'Yes, and the era of Bill Clinton is about to be over as well'."

Mr Dole still has a long way to go if he is to offer a solid alternative to the status quo in Washington. Polls from New York showed that at least half of the electorate agreed with Mr Buchanan's refrain that the ageing senator had no new ideas and Mr Dole lost the battle for self-identified independents to Mr Forbes.

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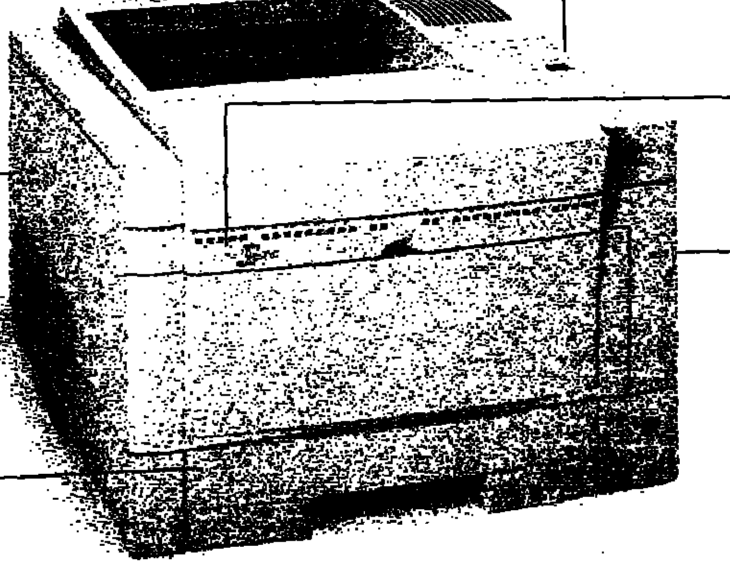

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Media-friendly wives play powerful role in a changing political landscape

Marriages in Germany are affairs of state

BERLIN FILE
by ROGER BOYES

THE notion of a First Lady has been catching on in Germany ever since Bill and Hillary Clinton demonstrated, with mixed success, that a personal political partnership can somehow complement and keep pace with marriage. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, already cranking up his election machine for 1998, has been attending buffet-guzzling parties to celebrate a cook book written with his wife. The picture album is supposed to flaunt their commitment to a united Germany and, presumably, to each other. It is not quite a Helmut-and-Hannelore election ticket, but there is no doubt about his wife's raised profile. Early rumours about trouble in the Kohl marriage have long since lost their currency.

Herr Kohl's rivals are having problems displaying similar family bliss. Oskar Lafontaine, the Social Democrat leader, a tubby bon viveur, has been publicly taken to task by Magret, his former wife, a sculptress. Their marriage collapsed under the weight of his various love affairs. Oskar is now married to a bottle-blonde Social Democrat researcher and his turbulent love life does not seem to have affected his standing in the opinion polls.

The real test of Germany's changing manners came this week, however, when the man most likely and most determined to unseat Herr Kohl, separated from his wife. Gerhard Schröder, the Social Democrat prime minister of Lower Saxony, has been married to Hiltrud — known as Hillu — for 11 years and they have become darlings of the media. It was the first major attempt to personalise German politics, to win elections through tabloid celebrity — and it seems to have failed. Hillu, now 47, first met her husband on the election trail; she was the wife of a policeman and a passionate leftwinger. They became lovers and she married Herr Schröder, becoming his third wife. Over the past four years, Hillu has become a fixture on the media landscape. She appears on game and talk shows — once memorably blowing soap bubbles with her husband — and only days before the marriage broke up was given three pages of a glossy magazine to explain her vegetarian philosophy.

Herr Schröder, a 51-year-old former student radical who has the look of a battered boxer, seems to have found it all quite charming. Some analysts say that he captured his absolute majority for the Social Democrats in Lower Saxony only with the help of his wife. But now Herr Schröder has fallen for a blonde 32-year-old journalist.

Insiders believe the politician crumbled under the strain of living with his strong-willed wife. Because she opposed the live transport of animals, she decided that only vegetarian food should be served at home. Herr Schröder took to creeping to the local pub for a schnitzel, or packing in sausages at election rallies.

Hillu disapproved of many of his male friends. His wife and her two teenage daughters nicknamed him "Gerda", a woman's name; a family joke that began to smart. If he drank too much, Hillu insisted that he sleep in the spare room.

The critical question is whether Herr Schröder can keep alive his hopes of winning the Chancellery.

EPA

Gerhard Schröder looks on as Hiltrud, his third wife, blows bubbles on a television show

The Social Democrats say they will decide only in the spring of 1998 who should be the official challenger to Herr Kohl. Plainly, Herr Lafontaine would like to have a go, but he failed once before.

Herr Schröder is the strongest alternative. Germany has never had a thrice-divorced leader before, but fellow Social Democrat Willy Brandt was divorced and proved to be electable. The balance of sympathy in the tabloid press seem to favour Herr Schröder, if only because Germans regard it as a basic human right to eat sausages.

One thing is for sure: Herr Kohl is poorly placed to exploit the embarrassment of his rival. The Chancellor's top security co-ordinator, Bernd Schmidbauer, recently left his wife to move in with his pregnant mistress.

Kohl finds it's good to talk

DISCREET lobbying has begun in Berlin and Bonn for the most sensitive of contracts: the installation of Helmut Kohl's personal telephone exchange when he moves his office to the German capital.

Herr Kohl rules by telephone (though he has denounced the mobile phone as "a scourge of humanity") and his bill runs to well over £300,000 a year. The French company, Alcatel, installed his current system in Bonn, but there are ambitious new plans for the Berlin Chancellery which will resemble a giant Orwellian eye.

Herr Kohl's most devastating phone call in almost 14 years of office was not to superpower leaders but to the German astronaut, Ulf Merbold, circling the Earth in a Russian spacecraft. The long conversation sucked most of the juice out of the craft's batteries. The astronaut had to pay the price of Herr Kohl's call: for two days they lived in darkness and icy cold until they could stabilise the ship.

'Euro-fighters' engage in battle of the sexes

A STRANGE linguistic debate has erupted here. Is the euro — the new European single currency — masculine, feminine or neuter. *Der Euro* would give the future currency a more manly feel, a sense of strength. But the purists say nouns ending in *o* should be neuter: *das auto, das radio, das bistro*. And the mark is feminine, so perhaps the euro which hopes to replace the mark should stay the same way.

This is just one of the headaches facing the PR managers, dubbed Euro-fighters, who are working out ways of selling the euro name. But they have been given a budget of less than £10 million, barely enough to launch a new yoghurt.

The Euro-fighters may be in luck. German zoologists have learnt that there is a species of Australian kangaroo called Euro. And it seems to fit the bill as a cuddly, lovable symbol of the new European currency.

But *Brehms Animal Life*, the classic zoological reference book, may make the money men think twice. The Euro, it says, "is intellectually underdeveloped. Even the sheep is more clever. Everything unexpected throws the animal into complete confusion."

Kiev admits new Chernobyl accident

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN KIEV

UKRAINIAN officials revealed yesterday that an accident occurred at the Chernobyl nuclear plant last November, just weeks before Ukraine signed an aid deal with the West for the plant's closure.

A malfunction of the cooling system caused an increase in the radiation background in the Number One reactor on November 27, said Sergei Semenyets, spokesman for Gosatomnadzor, the country's nuclear regulatory agency.

No one was reported injured in the incident, which was recorded as Level 1 on the international scale of nuclear accidents. Mr Semenyets said the problem was rectified the same day and the radiation level returned to normal.

The Chernobyl nuclear plant was the site of the world's worst commercial nuclear disaster, a devastating explosion in 1986 at the Number Four reactor.

Minor accidents occur frequently at Ukraine's ageing nuclear reactors but officials usually report them immediately. The November accident was the worst at Chernobyl since a fire in 1991 forced the closure of the Number Two reactor. It came as Ukrainian officials were nearing the end of negotiations with the Group of Seven industrialised nations on an aid package for closing the plant.

On December 20, the group signed an agreement promising $2.3 billion (£1.47 billion) in grants and credits to Ukraine for the shutdown, including the completion of two new nuclear reactors and social benefits for employees of the plant.

Gosatomnadzor had argued against the closure, saying that Chernobyl has seen the fewest accidents of all the country's nuclear plants in recent years and supplies 7 per cent of its energy.

Poland jails state torturer

Warsaw: A Polish court yesterday sentenced a former official of the Communist state security service to nine years in prison for torturing prisoners during the Stalinist era (Patricia Koza writes).

The trial of Adam Humer, 79, and 14 other men, all elderly, originally began in September 1993, but was continually postponed because of illness and the death of two defendants.

Aids gang thief dies in Turin hospital

Turin: A member of the "Aids gang", a trio who brazenly robbed banks without disguise, knowing that they could not go to jail under Italian law because they were terminally ill, has died in a Turin hospital.

Newspapers reported yesterday that Ferdinando Attanasio, 38, died at the northern city's Amedeo di Savoia hospital. "For months, Aids had paradoxically protected them," said *La Stampa* of the gang. "Now the sickness is taking its revenge."

The trio repeatedly robbed banks in full view of security cameras, knowing their illness protected them from prison. The Government modified the law last year to give judges discretion to imprison criminals in the terminal stages of illness. *(Reuter)*

Catalans play hard to get with Aznar

FROM EDWARD OWEN
IN MADRID

THE cartoon in yesterday's *La Vanguardia*, the Barcelona newspaper, showed José María Aznar, leader of the conservative Popular Party, starting to chisel away at a block of ice that contained an implacable Jordi Pujol, the Catalan nationalist leader.

If Señor Aznar is to govern Spain after his slim victory — 20 seats short of a majority — in last Sunday's elections, he must have the support of Señor Pujol and the votes of his deputies in the Madrid parliament.

With most Spaniards wondering who is running their country after the Socialists' defeat, Rodrigo Rato, nominated by Señor Aznar to negotiate a solution, reported little progress after his first round of talks.

"We can say that two questions have been tackled," said Señor Rato, who hopes to be Finance Minister in a Popular Party Government, "the general committees of the congress and the senate, and the search for a majority that will support a new Government. With respect to the first, things have been more concrete than with the second."

After four days of talks with Catalan, Basque, Canary Islands and Valencia nationalists, as well as the Socialists, Señor Rato said there had been consensus which gave hope for a deal.

"There was an ample agreement, more than a parliamentary majority, on European policies, the welfare state, the development of the autonomous regions and with regard to terrorism," he said.

He added that the Popular Party did not rule out any formula, the main consideration being maximum stability for the country.

Señor Pujol has indicated that the Catalans, with 16 seats, would give the Popular Party "governability", but not join a coalition.

The Basques, with five seats, were also conciliatory, but both will demand key concessions.

The Popular Party has until the end of this month to form a Government with the vital investiture vote for Señor Aznar expected at the beginning of April.

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■ OPINION

Richard Eyre's greatest legacy to Trevor Nunn is a National Theatre that was never 'in crisis'

■ THEATRE 1

A quirky South African twist on the *Robinson Crusoe* story comes from Theatre de Complicite

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE 2

... while in Glasgow the Citizens stages another grimly realistic novel by Irvine Welsh

■ RISING STAR

What's a talented 20-year-old actress doing playing a character called the Acid Queen?

No alarums and excursions, please

The oddest thing about the appointment of Trevor Nunn to run the National Theatre has been the hostility of so many journalists. Three reasons suggest themselves. The first is professional pique: in all the "runners and riders for the National" articles published over the past year, Nunn's name never appeared once — until the rumours started flying last month.

The second is the old British defect: we hate winners. And in the game of theatre, Trev is the biggest winner of all. He has amassed arty-cred *and* a vast fortune. It's just not fair, darlings, is it?

Finally, there's ageism. Nunn is 56, whereas his chief rivals are fresh out of primary school. Critics love calling for "new blood". Then, when things go hopelessly wrong, they point to "inexperience". That's called having it both ways. It's also called journalism.

So much for the scribblers. What of Nunn? He has some knotty problems ahead: how to balance the National's text-based tradition with demands by younger audiences for more "physical theatre"; how to retain the country's top actors for a pittance; how to attract more ethnically diverse audiences; and, chiefly, how to nurture new playwrights capable of changing the world — or at least the world inside our heads.

If he is sane, Nunn will emulate the methods of his predecessor. The most difficult trick in the arts is to sustain serenely a solid record of success. Richard Eyre did that. No whingeing. No "National in crisis" headlines. No flouncing off to the regions. No daft mega-million-pound projects. Just a determination to run three theatres so well that actors could get on with acting, directors with directing, audiences with enjoying.

Such people are the softly-softly geniuses of the arts world. Other examples are Clive Gillinson, the manager who has cannily steered the London Symphony Orchestra to glory while other orchestras floundered, and Brian McMaster, who has quietly eased the Edinburgh Festival back into the premier league of world culture.

I wonder whether Nunn is capable of being a softly-softly genius. Perhaps. After all, the only thing he still has to prove is that he can display other directors' talents with as much flair as he has displayed his own.

And now, a warning. The Curse of the Anniversary has struck again. For new readers — and of course for very old readers who can't quite remember — I shall explain.

IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

The Curse of the Anniversary afflicts creative geniuses exactly 50 years after their births and deaths — or after the premiere of a *magnum opus* — and every 50 years thereafter. This is how it happens. First, some bright spark says: "Hey! It's exactly 400 years since Sir Clodhop Noddle, author of *Ye Confessions of Ye Randy Plumber*, died of the plague. Should we not celebrate by staging the entire work?"

And off he goes with his chums to do exactly that. But human originality being what it is (ie, non-existent for 98 per cent of the time), some 29 other theatre groups have had the same notion. Thus the entire potential audience for *Ye Confessions*, approximately 17 people, is split 29 ways — which, apart from anything else, makes for a most vulgar fraction.

Meanwhile, scores of American academics jostle to produce *the* definitive biography of Sir Clodhop. Radio 3 presents Alec McCowen reading Noddle's complete poetic works in 239 instalments at 11.55pm each evening. Sir Simon Rattle devises a concert series, *Towards the Noddle*, which reveals fascinating parallels between Sir Clodhop and Karlheinz Stockhausen. And famous newspaper columnists immerse themselves in encyclopaedias for all of 15 minutes at a time in order to produce 800-word articles called "Why Oh Why Can't Modern Britain Produce More Noddles?"

Yes, to see the Curse of the Anniversary in action is an 'orrible thing. And the result? Inevitably it is the opposite of what its participants had intended. Weeks before the anniversary day, the punters are heartily sick of Noddle. Indeed, some minor geniuses never recover from an anniversary. Who wants to hear another note of Purcell after being zapped by ode after ode in 1995?

Well, the Curse has struck again. And how. Keen fans of Mendelssohn's music will know that on August 26, 1846, Queen Victoria's favourite composer came to Birmingham Town Hall and conducted the premiere of his oratorio *Elijah*. So to mark the 150th anniversary of that event a Coventry-based choir has booked Birmingham Town Hall for a gala performance of the work.

Good luck to them. They will need it. For on the same night in Symphony Hall — not half a mile away — the grandest of British maestros, Sir Neville Marriner, will be summoning his Academy of St Martin in the Fields for another concert. And which work has Sir Nev chosen to conduct? *Elijah*, naturally.

Brilliant planning. But there's more. Music-loving Brummies actually have no need to go out at all if they want to hear *Elijah* performed on the 150th anniversary of its premiere. Guess which oratorio Radio 3 is proposing to broadcast that night, live from the Proms at the Albert Hall. Here's a clue. It begins with E, and ends with "oh no, not another one".

And people wonder why the classical music world is in financial disarray.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

NICOLA HUGHES

Profession: Dancer, singer, actress. "I don't want to be stuck in one category. I can do everything," says Hughes exuberantly.

Age: 20

Who is she? The Acid Queen, the drug-crazed hooker played on screen by Tina Turner, in the West End production of *Tommy*. In real life, Hughes is charmingly unlike her character, combining slender elegance with youthful bounce.

On the Acid Queen: "She is mad, seductive, scary. I haven't known any drug addicts, so I've tried concentrating on needing something desperately. But really I just get out there and hit the character on stage."

First steps? Hughes comes from Loughborough. She started dancing at the age of three, with the encouragement of her mother, who, raising her daughters single-handedly, made sure that each of them pursued a hobby. So, while Hughes's elder sister got into the England team for athletics, intermediate, Hughes trotted up the road to dance school.

And then? When she was 11, she gained a place at a ballet and drama school. At 17, she had a go at an open audition. "Within three weeks I was leaving school, moving to London and appearing in *Crazy for You*."

Why does she work in musicals? "My face lights up just thinking about it," she says. "When an audience claps and you've given it your best shot, that's a beautiful feeling. I originally wanted to join the black Harlem Ballet Theatre in New York, but I'm a bit of an extrovert and you can give it more in musicals. I have all this energy bursting out of me."

Any terrible moments? "Plenty. One evening in *Crazy for You*, my wig fell off, leaving me with mike lights flashing all over my head, parading around in the chorus line looking like an android."

Her future plans: "I go with the flow. I'd love to play lots of leading musical roles, pursue the singing which — unlike dancing — gets better with age. Maybe do an album." She has also been acting in a pilot BBC sit-com that should come out this year.

On herself: "I like having a laugh. I'm not quiet. But after a three-hour show, who wants to go and boogie? My idea of fun is going home. I love gardening: me, the cats and my little Flymo."

KATE BASSETT

THEATRE: **Benedict Nightingale** on *Crusoe* revisited; plus more Irvine Welsh

The weak end starts here

Foe
West Yorkshire
Playhouse, Leeds

If you think of Robinson Crusoe as the 17th-century version of one of Ayckbourn's maddeningly cheerful DIY fanatics, Theatre de Complicite's latest effort should convert you. Played by Hannes Flaschberger as a morose cove who would be flung out of Cardboard City for being underdressed, he spends his days performing two pointless rituals. Either he sits staring out to sea, in case cannibals appear on the horizon, or he moves rocks from point A to point B, aided by Patrice Naiambana's even more silent and inscrutable Friday.

Complicite has ventured far and wide in its search for quirky, resonant tales. Indeed, several recent successes have been derived from writers most people have barely heard of, Daniil Kharms and Bruno Schultz among them. This time, the company has turned to the better-known J. M. Coetzee, who lives and works in Cape Town. Watching the white master and his black serf in their awful, enervating isolation, you are inevitably reminded of South Africa in the last days of apartheid, when *Foe* was written.

But this is far from the only thought the play provokes. In fact, Mark Wheatley's adaptation and Annie Castledine and Marcello Magni's co-production churn your brain cells more thoroughly than your less elevated parts. Even with a charismatic Kathryn Hunter as protagonist, narrator and permanent presence on Peter Mumford's ramshackle stick-and-stone set, Complicite has trouble turning deconstruction into drama.

DONALD COOPER

Patrice Naiambana (Friday), Hannes Flaschberger (Cruso) and Kathryn Hunter (Susan Barton) in J.M. Coetzee's *Foe*

Hunter is Susan Barton, a castaway who lands on the island 15 years after Cruso, as he styles himself, became its supremo. She spends Act I mostly boggling at a silence that, since he says little and Friday's tongue has been cut out by slavers, is broken mainly by shrieking gales. Act II kills off Cruso, and brings Susan and Friday to London, where they fall into the clutches of Daniel Foe or Defoe, in Rob Pickavance's slanderous but strong performance a supercilious leech mainly interested in sucking a good, saleable story out of facts he finds disappointingly banal.

The play is largely about cheating people of their voices and hence of their power to be themselves. That is obviously the case with Naiambana's Friday, who can chant and grunt and dance a bit, but, like his South African descendants, is wrongly assumed to be empty inside. But Cruso is a man too damaged to be able to tell his story, and Susan, who wants only to recount the truth, falls victim to London's book-packaging industry.

What she describes is an island existence in which every day was bleak and boring: "No strange fruits, no cannibals, only a woman cowering from the wind." But that does not appeal to the debt-ridden Foe, symbolically perched on a towering stool. For him, it is a case of *Robinson Crusoe* or bust. Susan sums up the theme a little too neatly: "Every time you close your ears to me you rob me of my freedom, just as the slavers robbed Friday of his."

Complicite's work evolves as it runs, and by late-April, when it arrives at the Young Vic, *Foe* may have become crisper, more accessible. Something certainly needs doing — expansion or excision — about the young woman who appears from nowhere to claim she is Susan's daughter. At the moment she is dull and distracting. And an ending that is interestingly mysterious on the page becomes irritatingly baffling on the stage. Better, surely, to cut cleanly to Friday's terrible last yowl. That is truthful, dramatic, suggestive and everything else *Foe* as a whole could and should be.

RECITAL

Dessert songs

IF MUSIC be the food of love, then Sylvia McNair is a cordon bleu chef. She crooned her way through a Purcell ditty as a sort of pre-concert seduction, then sank into *An die Musik*, the first of a group of Schubert songs.

But, lest the appetite should sicken and so die, McNair had decided to share the platform not only with her keen-eared and ever perceptive pianist, Roger Vignoles, but also with clarinettist Andrew Marriner and cellist Paul Watkins. After a group of limpidly inflected Italian songs by Schubert, McNair and Marriner turned to *The Shepherd on the Rock*.

McNair/Vignoles
Wigmore Hall

After a gently poised miniature cadenza, the clarinet provided a warm current of air on which the voice could float in its final spring song.

Watkins's task was to add his cello's voice to *Four Songs* by André Previn, receiving their UK premiere. These settings of poems by Toni Morrison are as uneven as they are varied, moving from an austere, barely tonal duet between cello and soprano called *Mercy*, through a sparky jazz number called *I don't need no man*, and on to *In this soft place* and *I am as you see*, which I found as musically indeterminate as they were verbally vapid.

McNair's satiny soprano gives its own distinctive gloss to the French repertoire. The voice came into its own as the *ingénue* teller of tales for Bizet's *Ladybird*; warmed to the arrival of spring in *Chanson d'Avril*, and revelled in the sheer sweetness and light of the *Tarantelle*.

HILARY FINCH

Welsh dragons

Marabou Stork Nightmares
Citizens, Glasgow

FIVE young faces stare out from hoardings across the country: the damaged and doomed characters of Irvine Welsh's *Trainspotting*. Originally a book, it is now a film, and in between those two states a play that began its life at the Citizens.

I daresay *Marabou Stork Nightmares*, Welsh's second novel, again dramatised and directed by Harry Gibson, will follow the route of the first. It is a deeper, denser, altogether more serious work, and while, inevitably, Gibson has had to leave out many incidents, catastrophes, and even some killings, the anguish of the hero, Roy Strang, is brought across with electrifying intensity. As is the different anguish of the little girl he helps to gang-rape.

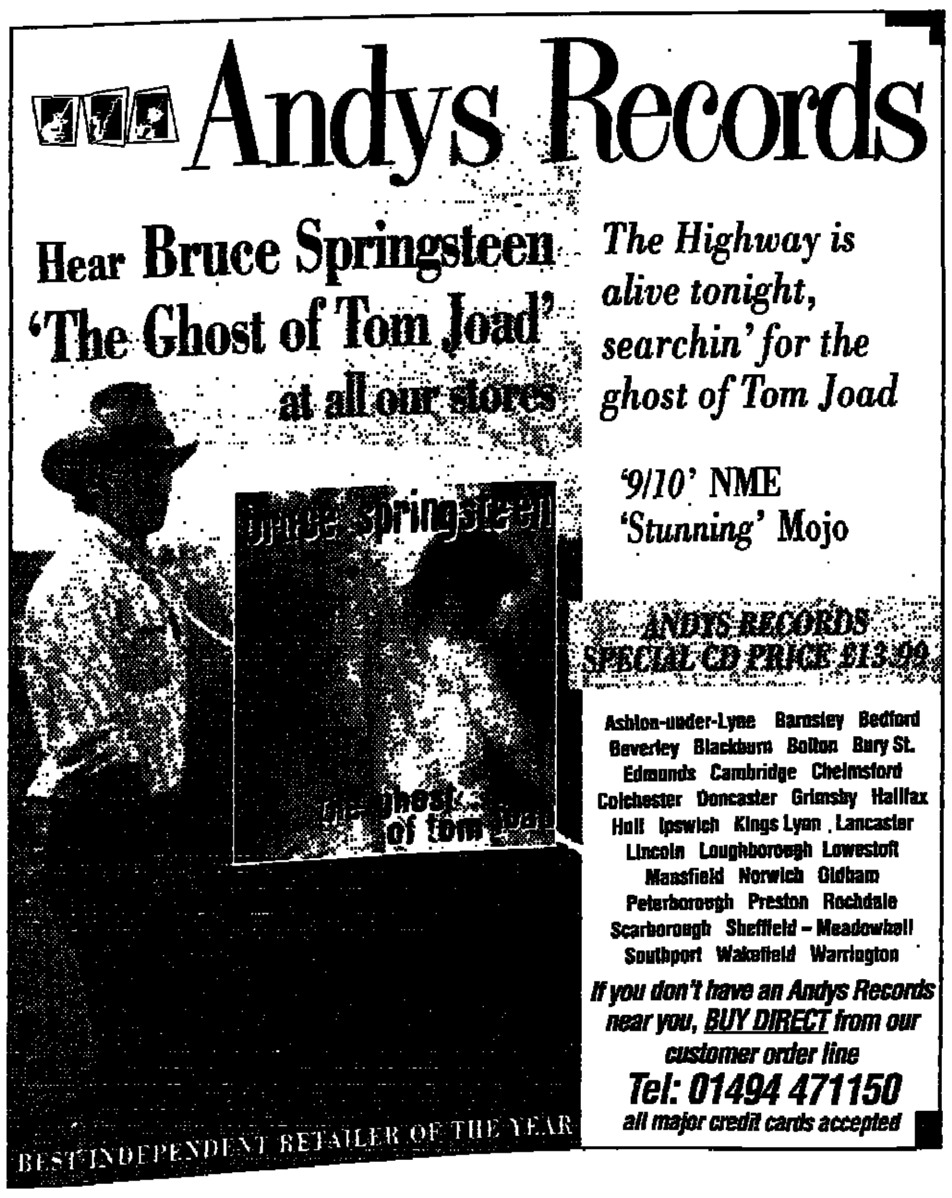
After the director's credit in the programme come the names of the designer (Suzanne Field) and lighting designer (Michael Lancaster), who vividly capture the shifting, interacting landscapes of Roy's memory, fantasy and grim actuality. And below their names comes a credit I have never seen before: "The Violence" by Denis Agnew. His contribution certainly includes the street fights of the Hibs supporters Roy gangs up with, but the sex is also uncomfortably violent. Not only Kirsty's rape, dimly seen happening in the back of a van, but the forced sex that an uncle inflicted upon Roy as a child — and which, rather glibly, is made to take the blame for what follows.

Welsh writes about people trapped in a terrible world where violence begets violence, and to reveal feelings is to have your face smashed. But where the junkies in *Trainspotting* live in an eternal present, Roy reveals the significant griefs and marvels of a lifetime interlocking with dread as he lies comatose in a hospital ward.

Played with a gritty, gutsy realism by James Cunningham, Roy keeps to the safety of his vegetative state while his dysfunctioning family and an unrecognised girl pay visits. He is deep in an Africa of the mind, hunting the loathsome predator-scavenger, the marabou stork that preys upon pretty flamingos. In truth, he is hunting himself.

Of the company's excellent supporting cast of four Joanna Macleod is outstanding in the contrasting roles of brainless mother, gormless daughter and the hapless girl Roy drags down to his level of slaughter or being slaughtered.

JEREMY KINGSTON



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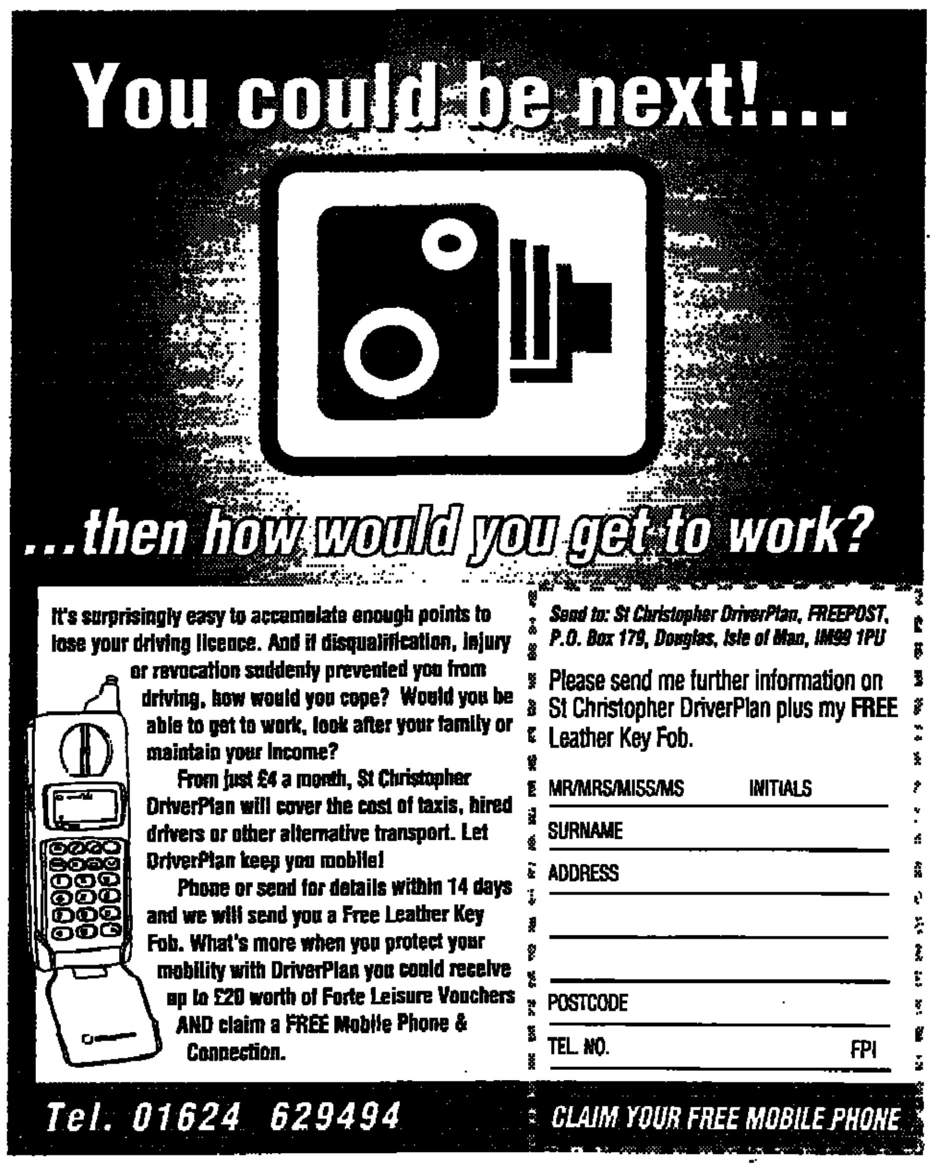

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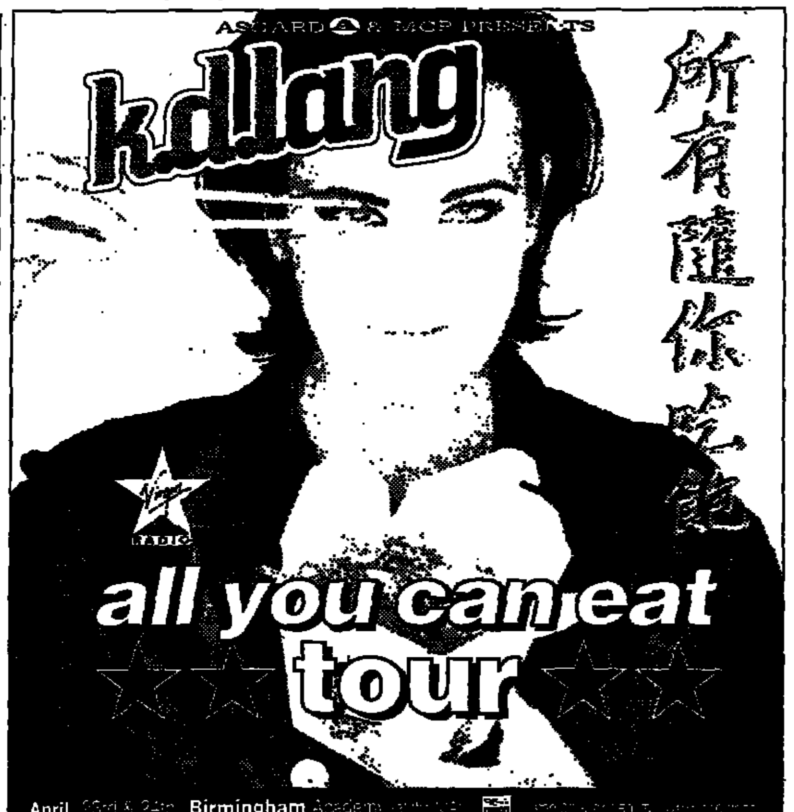

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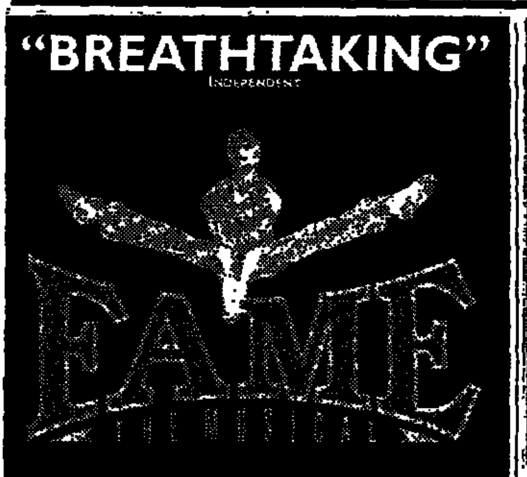

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■ VISUAL ART

Turner's didactic Drawing Book, the *Liber Studiorum*, goes on show at the Tate Gallery

■ BASE NOTE

'Que sera sera', as the lady sang: now they are going to stage a musical about Doris Day

THE TIMES ARTS

■ BASE NOTE

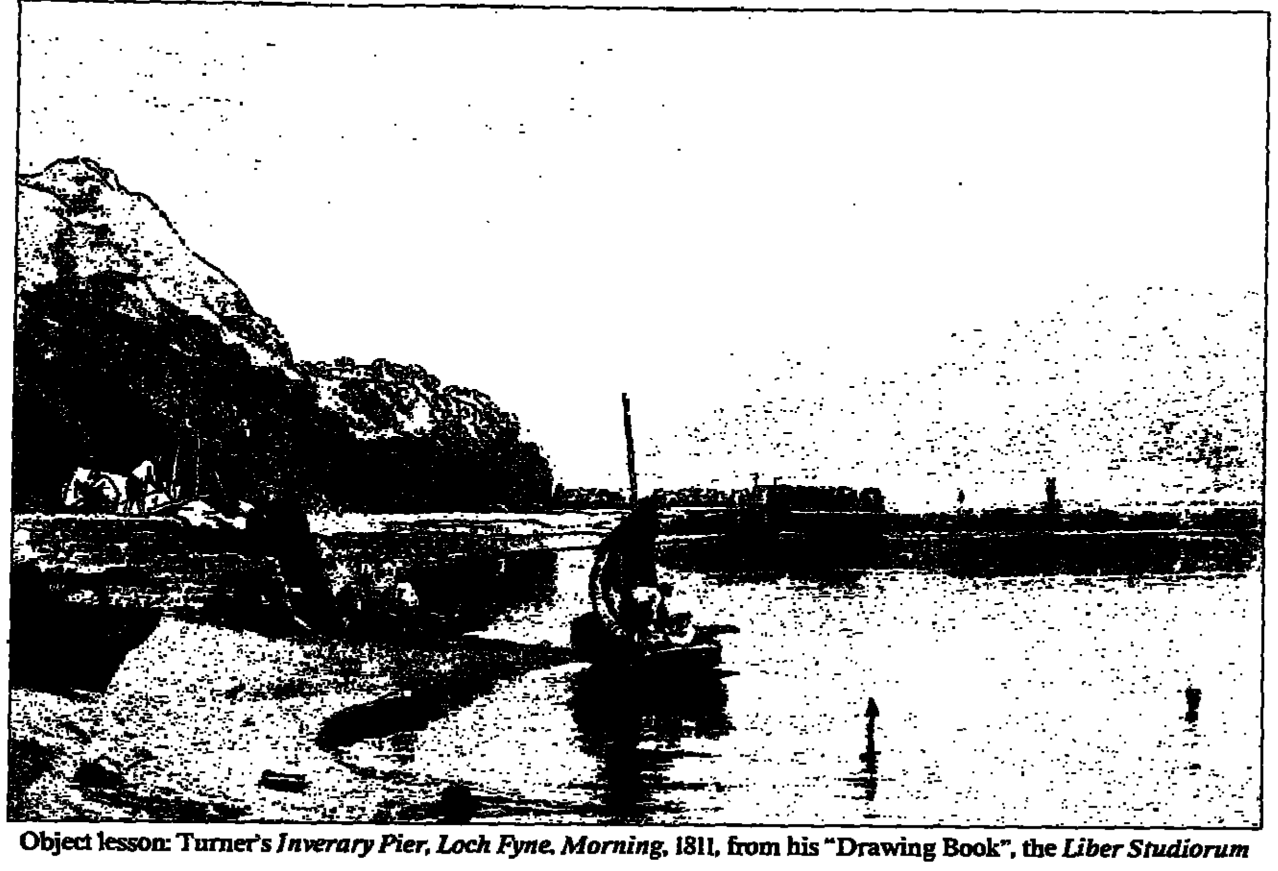
Sam Mendes announces top casting for his next shows at the Donmar Warehouse

■ BASE NOTE

Elaine Paige makes a belated Broadway debut playing Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard*

Isabel Carlisle on the print series with which Turner hoped to start a British school of landscape

Bold new tradition in prospect



Object lesson: Turner's *Inverary Pier, Loch Fyne, Morning*, 1811, from his "Drawing Book", the *Liber Studiorum*

For the past few years, the Clore Gallery at the Tate, which shows Turner's bequest to the nation of his oil paintings, watercolours, drawings and prints, has been unobtrusively putting on a series of small exhibitions curated by outside scholars. The first five were supported by research grants from Volkswagen, the two current scholars have funds from Nuclear Electric behind them. Each exhibition *throws new light* on an unexplored aspect of Turner's art and is accompanied by a catalogue which stands as an important reference work in its own right. The enterprise is an example of how a national collection can be made to live through the efforts of experts and curators, plus the all-important sponsorship.

> ‘Bear in mind that the prints had an educational function’

Currently under scrutiny is Turner's *Liber Studiorum*, the series of sepia engravings in etching and mezzotint which the artist issued over 20 years from 1807, and which, this exhibition suggests, was Turner's attempt to raise the position of landscape in the traditional hierarchy of art. That the 18th-century Romantic idea of the Sublime in art could be met by landscape was a challenge that Turner rose to in his early oil paintings.

In the *Liber Studiorum* he set out to prove that the historically differentiated types of landscape, from the great classical compositions of Poussin or Claude Lorrain to the humbler country scenes that derived from Dutch art, from mountains to seascapes, were all equally valid. The *Liber* was in effect a visual history of European landscape painting (minus text) which would, Turner hoped, form the basis of a new British school of landscape painting. Claude's own *Liber Veritatis*, drawings of landscapes translated into sepia prints almost two centuries before, was a major inspiration.

The exhibition shows the entire series of 71 prints of the *Liber* around the walls of the two galleries and, in showcases, deals with the techniques of production and examples of drawing and painting manuals produced by Turner's contemporaries.

In the staggered issues of sets of five prints, Turner mixed typically English country scenes such as *The Straw Yard* or *Ploughing, Eton* with the Italianate *Woman and Tambourine*, the awe-inspiring *Mt St Gothard*, or the storm-lashed *Coast of Yorkshire*. Some derive from his own paintings, others are in the style of artists whom he admired, such as Gainsborough, but many are original compositions.

The oil painting of *Norham Castle* (1845-50) takes up a subject that Turner first tackled in the *Liber Studiorum* after visiting Norham, on the Tweed, in 1797. This is the only canvas in the exhibition, and the watery morning sunshine dissolving the mist off the river in a shimmer of blues and yellows is a reminder that without colour Turner's art is severely diminished.

The painting is shown alongside the series of mezzotints in which Turner can be seen working out his ideas on the subject: on one he scratched out part of the sky and added a wash directly onto the paper. In making the prints he selected and combined techniques according to the analogous painting and drawing effects he wanted to convey. However, his fascination with light and atmosphere is not really present in these engraved studies that, in contrast to his paintings, have a relatively restricted range of tonal values. We need to bear in mind that the prints had a rather different, educational function, one that is filled by photography today.

Unfortunately, Turner was neither an efficient self-publicist nor an astute businessman and the series failed to sell well and to make the profits that he hoped for. In addition, although the *Liber* sold to artists such as David Cox and John Sell Cotman in Turner's lifetime, and Constable was advised in 1819 to "study Turner's 'Drawing Book' to learn to make a whole", it did not exert any significant influence on contemporary art.

Nor did the *Liber* achieve its additional propaganda purpose: Turner was elected to the chair of Professor of Perspective at the Royal Academy in 1807 but secretly hoped to convert this to a Professorship of Landscape Painting — a dream that failed to materialise. In the age of the blockbuster exhibition it is easy to forget that an artist's near misses are as important for an understanding of the whole as the enduring triumphs.

● Turner's "Drawing Book": the Liber Studiorum, *sponsored by Volkswagen, is in the Clore Gallery at the Tate (0171-887 8000) until June 2, admission free.*

BASE NOTES

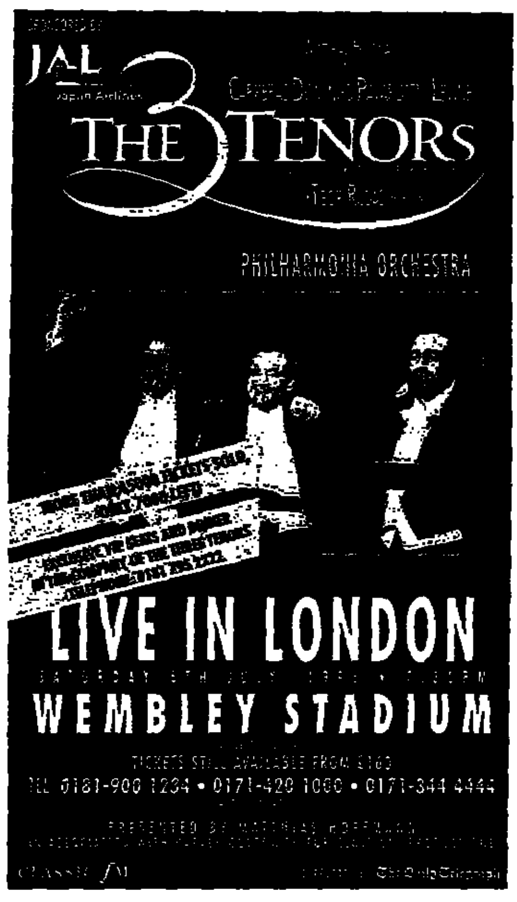
IS THERE no end to the stream of musicals based on the lives of former stars? Apparently not: the latest luminary to have her exploits wheeled out for the nostalgia crowd is **Doris Day**. Some 40 of her songs are to be included in a new show at the King's Head, Islington, called *Definitely Doris* (opening April 10). So, one hopes, will be one of the great Hollywood quips — Groucho Marx's observation: "I knew Doris Day before she was a virgin."

● WITH the help of a £570,250 lottery grant, Darlington is to get its controversial train. No, not an improvement to local transport links: this train — or rather, *Train* — is a sculpture made from 350,000 bricks by the maverick artist **David Mach**. When erected, next to a new supermarket development, *Train* will be 48 metres long and ten metres high and depict a steam train emerging from its own smoke, in celebration of Darlington's illustrious railway history.

● QUICKLY swallowing his disappointment at losing out in the National Theatre race to Trevor Nunn, **Sam Mendes** has announced bold casting for forthcoming Donmar Warehouse ventures. **Jim Broadbent**, last seen in hilarious form in Woody Allen's *Bullets over Broadway*, will take the lead in Mendes's new staging of Alan Bennett's *Habeas Corpus* in June. Meanwhile, **Alun Armstrong** and **Stephen Dillane** will play the desolate Hamm and Clov in **Katie Mitchell**'s revival of Samuel Beckett's *Endgame* next month.

● WITH the new West End production of the show winning mostly favourable reviews, a remastered, one-CD version of **The Who**'s original soundtrack to *Tommy* is now being promoted by Polydor. Meanwhile, a number of UK labels are said to be negotiating for the rights to a cast recording of the current London stage version.

● MORE than 15 years after she was turned down for the title role in the New York production of *Evita*, the pint-sized British singer **Elaine Paige** will finally make her Broadway debut. On September 5 she takes over as Norma Desmond in Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard*.



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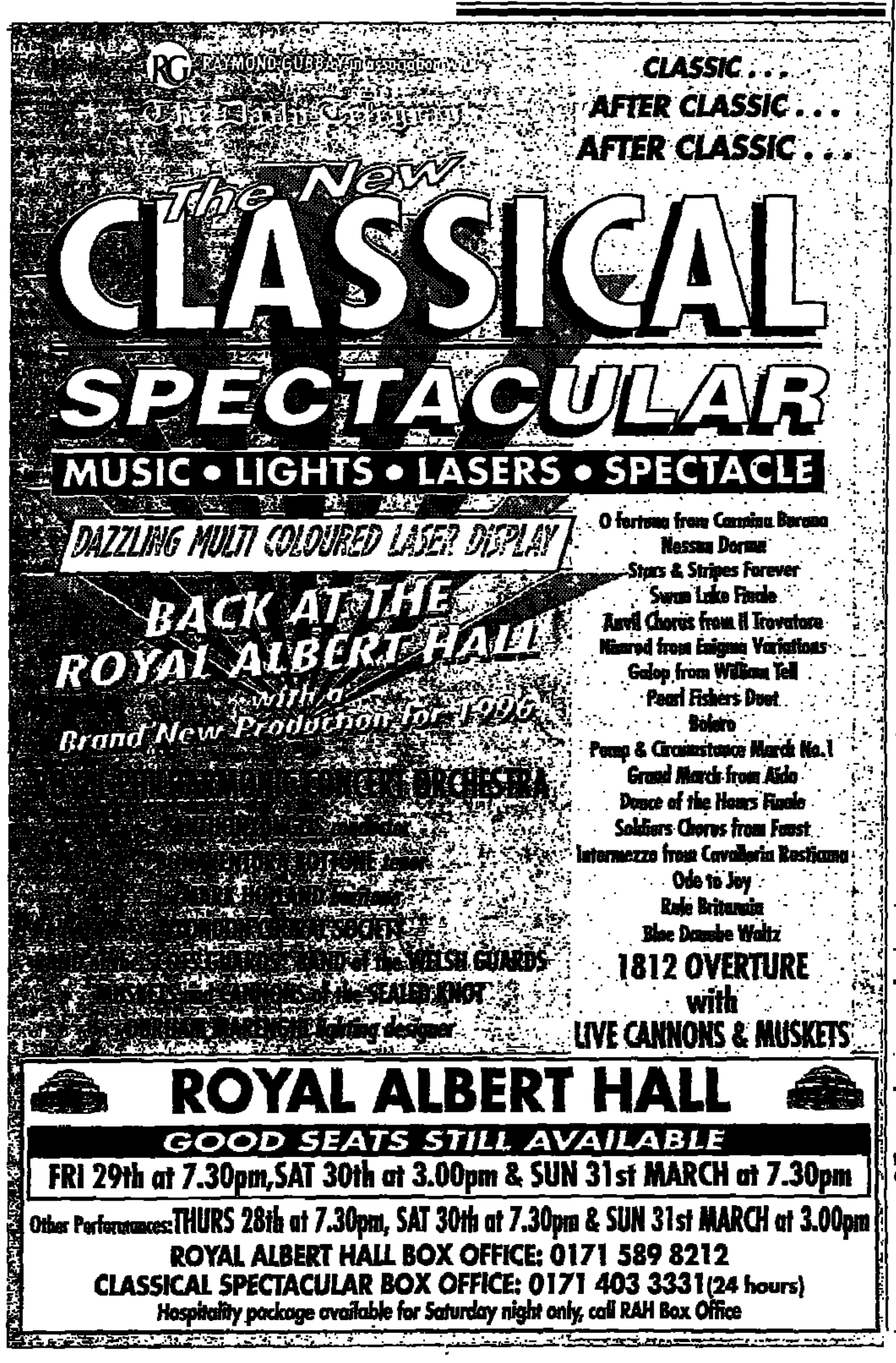

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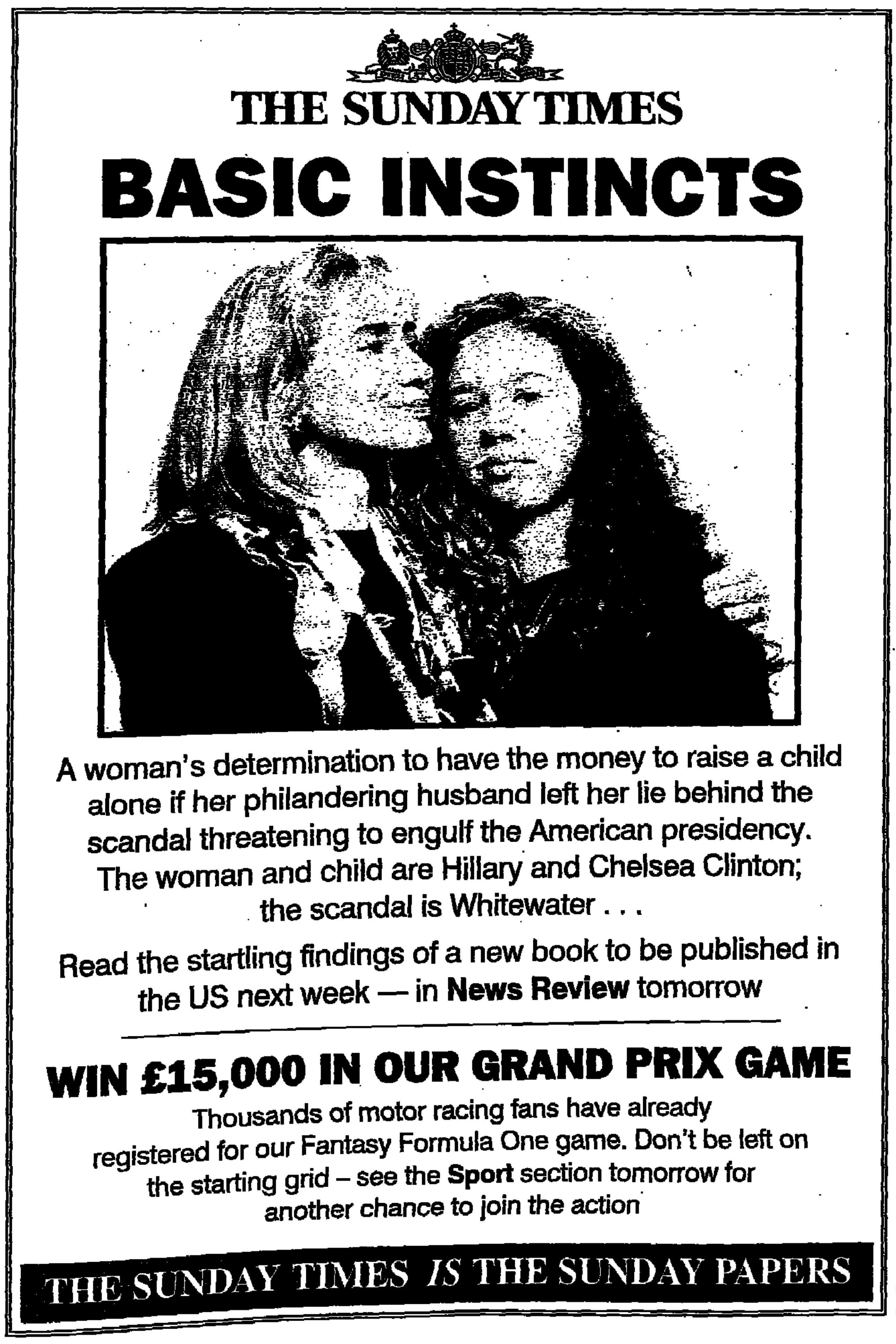

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THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

A master to make time stand still

Angelica Goodden evokes the understated art of Vermeer

It is incredible that Jan Vermeer, whom some consider the greatest of all painters, has had to wait until now for a major exhibition devoted exclusively to his work. Sold out even before it opened last week at the Mauritshuis in The Hague, the exhibition (which was already a sensation in Washington) is likely to make anyone lucky enough to see it feel both the attractions of escapism and the power of art to fix transient things in perpetuity.

Even more than other Dutch 17th-century artists, Vermeer epitomises a paradox. Nothing appears more settled than a Vermeer interior or still life, though what they record is impermanence — the fruits that will rot and the daily human activities that apparently lack eternal meaning. Vermeer reassures because he seems to take us outside time. His pictures, which radiate silence and a sense of space, are all the more moving for seeming to proclaim the virtues of changelessness. By being so unhurried, they work like a parable on the futility of haste and bustle.

Vermeer's appeal has not always been felt. He was a minor celebrity in his own age, but he died in poverty in 1675 and was largely forgotten for the next 150 years. Romantics like to imagine him as laughing at this obscurity from beyond the grave, either because he believed that posterity would eventually do him justice or because he held worldly renown cheap. His day finally came in the mid 19th century, when he was rescued by critics and connoisseurs, and it has never passed. Our own age, which worries unconvincingly about not preferring intangible values to worldly ones, admires him as much as more frankly materialistic ages have done.

Unhurried, his pictures work like a parable on the futility of bustle

We now know that Vermeer died a pauper not because he cared nothing for money, but because Louis XIV's invasion of The Netherlands had disastrous consequences for the Dutch economy. Yet the myth of the artist's detachment from the world is a very potent one. In Vermeer's case it has been compounded by his historical elusiveness. He seems inscrutable because so much of his life passed unrecorded. Proust called Vermeer, whose art he had revered since his youth, "unknown for all time".

In fact, Vermeer is now better known than ever. Since it was discovered that he was a picture-dealer as well as a painter, it has been hard to sustain the old image of an aloof, unworldly Vermeer. But that belief is bound to persist, for it enables us to feel cleansed and pure in his company.

Part of the blame for the Vermeer myth must be laid at the door of Marcel Proust. In *A la recherche du temps perdu*, the famous writer Bergotte goes to see Vermeer's *View of Delft* at an exhibition in Paris. He is so moved by the picture that he collapses and dies in front of it. The detail which occasions his death is Vermeer's painting of what he supposes is a section of wall (it is actually a roof). This is a masterpiece of such understatement that it makes Bergotte despair about the routine nature of his own work. "That is how I should have written," he says. "My last books are too dry. I should have applied several layers of colour, made my sentences precious in themselves, like this little section of yellow wall." Where Vermeer crafted disinterestedly, he himself has written with an eye to the public — hence his art is corrupt.

If an artist cares as much about his work as Vermeer did, Proust is arguing, he is necessarily a superior artist. This is not a convincing argument, but Proust used it to underline the supreme merits of artistic detachment. The case of Vermeer, misinterpreted or not, leads him to conclude that great art rests on hidden laws of sacrifice. Nothing but an obscure sense of duty makes an artist repaint a detail over and over again, even though the true worth of his devotion will be appreciated only when he is dead. The perfection of Vermeer's wall shows the proper autonomy of art. Art is worth being dead to the world for, as Proust sought to do, and as legend likes to see Vermeer doing. The venal artist, on the other hand, concedes everything to the world and its values. The second-rateness of much venal art, incidentally, is now on display at the Royal Academy's Leighton exhibition.

The *View of Delft* seems to Proust the ultimate work of art, in the strict sense of being outside time. The painting may have shown Delft at a particular point in its history (though it is no photograph), but it also "froze" the image as an ideal representation. Perhaps because it seems to transcend the inherent instability of real life. Proust's own great novel about time shares the same quality of timelessness, despite its preoccupation with the mundane detail of high society. Likewise, Vermeer's women, absorbed in dreams, his quiet streets or townscapes, seem poetic as well as ordinary. They embody a truth that stands above truth-to-life. This is why they are uplifting as well as reassuring.

So the question of how close we ourselves stand to the subject of art becomes secondary. We do not necessarily need to identify an image as showing how something "really" was. We may be most moved by the way Vermeer makes simplicity appear preferable to sophistication. Possibly we love Vermeer because he exalts the virtues of calm ordinariness and discretion in a peculiarly beguiling way. Or we may admire the non-referential aspects of his work, such as his breathtaking use of colour, more than anything.

Either way, Vermeer manages to sharpen and enhance our own vision, as Proust thought the "binoculars of art" should always do.

The author is a Fellow of St Hilda's College, Oxford.

Mary Ann Sieghart is unshocked by a notorious film about teenage sex, drugs and disease

Why I would let my children see *Kids*

It was with some trepidation that I descended into a scruffy Soho basement to watch a screening of *Kids*. Variously described as "child porn" or a "morality tale", this is a story of 24 steamy hours in the lives of a group of New York teenagers. It is either terminally depraved or unerringly realistic, depending upon your viewpoint. As the mother of two young daughters, yet liberal about sex and drugs, I expected to experience a deep inner tussle between maternal protectiveness and instinctive permissiveness.

To my surprise, I agonised barely at all. Were my daughters in their late teens, I would certainly want them to see this film. And I would make sure that we talked about it afterwards. For it raises so many issues pertinent to teenage life that it would be a sin not to take advantage of its release to hold the sort of conversation that is normally so difficult between parents and their older children.

The film starts from a universal truth: sex or the idea of it dominates the lives of 16 and 17-year-old boys. Girls of that age have feelings that are more mixed — they are both scared and excited by it, but they want it to be accompanied by love and they worry about exploitation, pregnancy and disease. These differences are explored in the first ten minutes of the film in conversations of unflinching veracity. *Kids* captures brilliantly the desperate urges that boys of that age experience, and the consequent pressures that they put on girls to submit.

The moral to any teenage girl is clear: boys will promise anything to get what they want, and it is best not to believe them. For the effect on one girl, Jenny, of believing Telly's insincere protestations of love when he takes away her virginity, is that she catches the HIV virus. Because we learn this early on, we view the film through a different prism. *Kids* becomes a powerful contraceptive. And if it does not deter teenagers from sex altogether, it will at least encourage them to use condoms.

So why do so many adults find the film intolerable? The most serious charge is that of paedophilia. This does not wash: though all the actors are over 16, Telly himself barely looks old enough to have reached the age of consent. He is no dirty old man taking advantage of a prepubescent girl; these are two adolescents making the same silly mistakes that teenagers make all over the world.

That is probably one reason why some adults cannot bear the film. It embarrasses them. Men in the audience will be uncomfortably reminded of how sex-obsessed they too were at 16. Women may remember the dreadful dilemmas they faced at that age: simultaneously desperate to resist and to give into the pressure inflicted by boys. Meanwhile, those of an older generation may be secretly jealous that today's teenagers have a chance to indulge in what had to remain a fantasy when they were adolescents.

But *Kids* glamorises neither sex nor drugs. The sex scenes are decidedly perfunctory and unerotic, shabby even. Any teenager with an ounce of sense — and most have more than that — would see how empty these lives are. The many drugs scenes purvey no excitement: cannabis may be entertaining to smoke, but to see stoned people on a screen is as tedious as watching paint dry.

Unlike most teen films, the girls do not look like Sharon Stone and the boys are no Matt Dillons. Although the girls are quite sympathetic, none of the boys is attractive or funny or likeable. Because the characters are not beautiful and because they have not been given clever lines, the audience is never sucked into hero-worship. Indeed Telly, the leading boy, is not just physically repellent, he even kicks his own cat and steals money from his mother. Not only is he clearly no hero: he is too obnoxious even to be an anti-hero.

Kids is ultimately a sad film. The teenagers depicted are no more than grown-up children using their bodies as toys. Puberty still has a novelty value for them, and sex is the most fun they can have without spending money. But they are struggling to grasp the rules of the game, to understand that, in sexual relationships, for every ladder there is the risk of a snake.

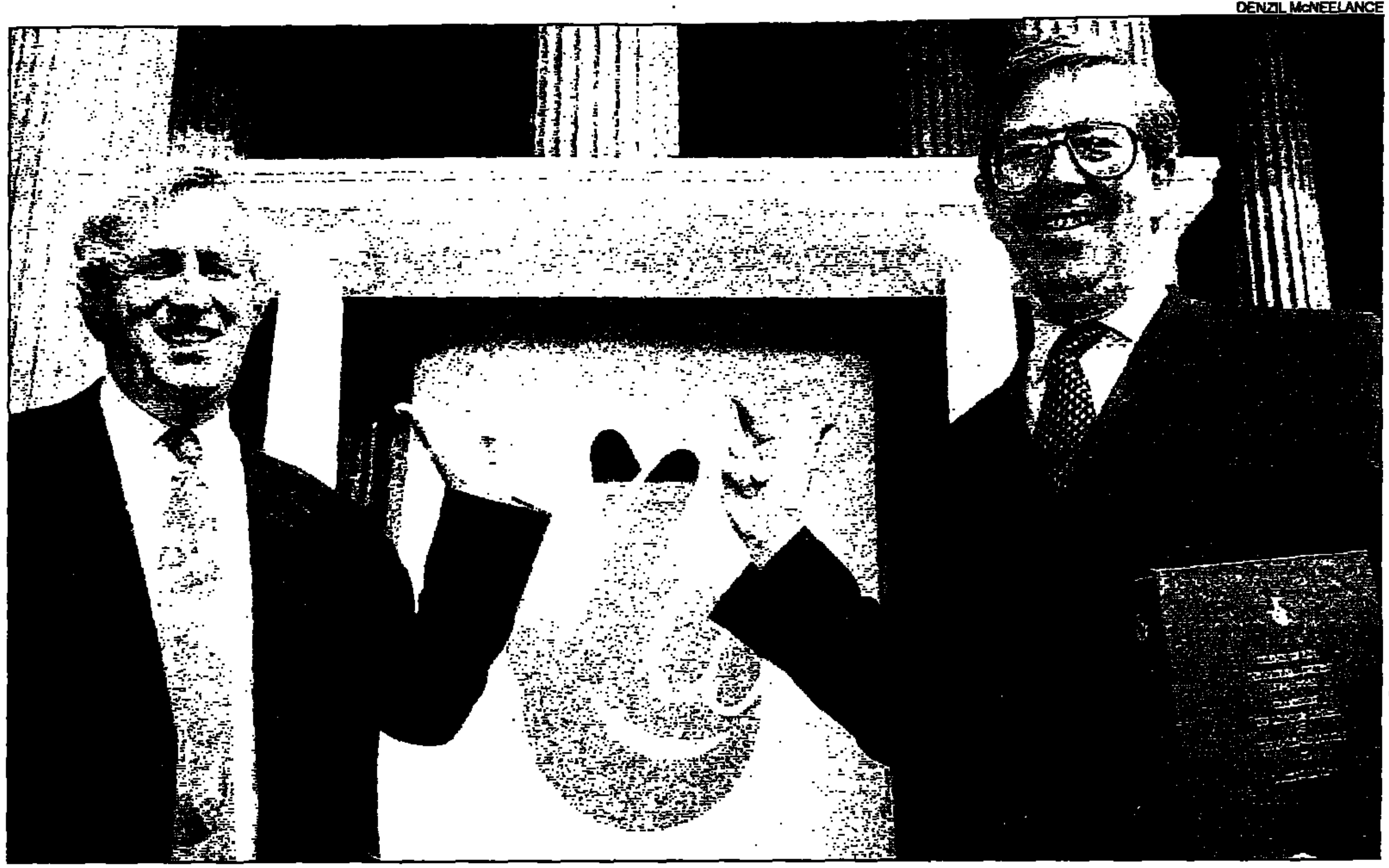
This is a learning process that almost everybody goes through when they first become sexually active. The age at which it happens will vary, and these New York kids with absent parents are likely to be the most precocious of all. To that extent they are untypical. But to deny that teenagers' private lives revolve around thoughts of sex and that they are tempted to take drugs for fun would be both unrealistic and ultimately damaging.

The British Board of Film Censors was right to pass this film and right to give it an 18 certificate, since in practice that means that children of 15, 16 and 17 will find their way in. Parents and teachers should encourage teenagers to go and to discuss it afterwards. *Kids*, for all its emptiness, tells both adults and adolescents more about real life than any number of saccharine Hollywood concoctions.

Heads or tails, Big Brother wins

Now that Camelot cannot lose, the lottery is just a form of taxation

Simon Jenkins


DENZIL McNEELANCE

Is the relationship between lottery operator and regulator too cosy? Chief executive of Camelot Tim Holley and head of Oflot Peter Davis

What a week this has been for capitalism. In London yesterday, investors in Lloyd's faced the gods of the market and wept. Thousands are now ruined. Yet across town, investors in Camelot were being tucked deeper in their feather bed by that friendly regulator, Peter Davis of Oflot. He agreed to cover them against a risk so small that Lloyd's would not have thought it worth a premium. Where, rose the cry over Lime Street, is justice?

The answer is known to every shrewd businessman throughout history. If you want to be certain of your money, cut a deal with government. The risk is negligible, politicians are gullible and the taxpayers' money is limitless. Britain's National Lottery will this year overtake Japan's as the biggest in the world, with £8 billion in turnover and £4 billion in prizes. Anyone who thinks that money would be ever be allowed to run loose without a Treasury chaperone is a fool. The message of Thursday's bizarre decision on the "match-three" winners is proof of this. The National Lottery is not a game. It is a tax farm.

Mr Davis's decision was really trivial. Camelot has made great play of its minimum prize of £10, paid out to anyone who gets three correct numbers at the weekly draw. Roughly a million people a week win this prize, sustaining enthusiasm among those who rightly consider their chance of a jackpot as low. Camelot has noted that people tend to bet more highly on numbers under 31 (that is, on their family birthdates). Should too many gamblers hit the right three numbers under 31, Camelot might have to pay out more than it has allocated in that week's prize fund. This might jeopardise the bigger prizes, needed for marketing purposes. It might jeopardise the £100 million prize reserve. It might even lead to what Oflot's Mr Davis this week called "the nightmare scenario": a threat to the finances of Camelot itself. As a result, Camelot may now pay less than £10 on three winning numbers if it chooses.

This is most odd. The finances of Camelot make Fort Knox look like a piggy bank. Mr Davis admitted that the risk he was closing was small. His office said it was less than one in 14 million. An Oxford statistician said it would not occur "in the lifetime of the universe". Warming to this theme, Mr Davis told BBC Radio that he was more likely to bump into Elvis Presley on the moon. His visits to America may have told him things about Mr Presley concealed from the rest of us, but to lottery players the decision was a mystery. If the risk was so comically small, why break gambling's most sacred tenets: that rules are not changed during the game and that when the bank loses, the bank pays? To make a change against the small player to protect about-to-be-rich jackpot winners and already-rich Camelot shareholders was extraordinary.

When Camelot was awarded the contract in preference to Richard Branson's non-profit offer, much was made by the then Secretary of State, Peter Brooke, of the virtues of private sector risks and rewards. Had the lottery not started on time, Camelot would have been "fined" £1 million a day. Yet this was at worst a short-term risk against certain huge profits. The Treasury, not Camelot, ensured the success of the lottery by legislating for a monopoly and banning all competition. It even banned a practice common in other countries, of private side bets on the outcome — to the fury of the pools companies, who have already lost a third of their business. The Government also allowed consortium members to be exclusive sub-contractors. Bigger even than the £320 million profit that ICL, Racal and De La Rue will probably collect over the seven-year contract are the profits they will derive as non-competitive equipment suppliers.

This week's decision confirms what those acquainted with state lotteries knew from the start. The only risk in bidding for a contract is the risk of not winning it. State lotteries have to succeed because governments get too much kudos and revenue from them to "risk a risk". A lottery company is as secure as a branch of the Inland Revenue. Lottery contracts are like arms contracts. They are a cast-iron, cost-plus-profit means of becoming very rich at the taxpayers' or punters' expense.

Camelot/Oflot's reneging on the match-three pledge is a storm in a teacup. I doubt if the number of players will plummet next week and the chance of the change being invoked is almost non-existent. What is more instructive is that Oflot decided that even an infinitesimal risk to the lottery had to be eliminated. Given the choice of cash-limiting the prize money or risking viability, Mr Davis cash-limited the prize.

Mr Davis is now involved in restructuring a large portion of the gaming industry in Britain, and in such a way as to give its producers all the protection of a public corporation. If a rule appears to put the producer at risk from the claims of consumers, statute law is invoked to close that risk. Mr Davis is treating Camelot as if it were a surrogate for the taxpayer, as if it were in partnership with the Treasury.

The Government now has a huge stake in the lottery. Its success is altering the balance of leisure spending in Britain by individuals, charities, benefactors, the arts, sports and government. Government already takes a direct 12 per cent cut of the lottery takings. This is unusually small. Most state lotteries give far more than that to government. Under the 1993 Act, the Treasury was generous in allowing a further 25 per cent to go beyond its immediate grasp to the "good cause" distributors (in one of which, the Millennium Commission, I declare an interest).

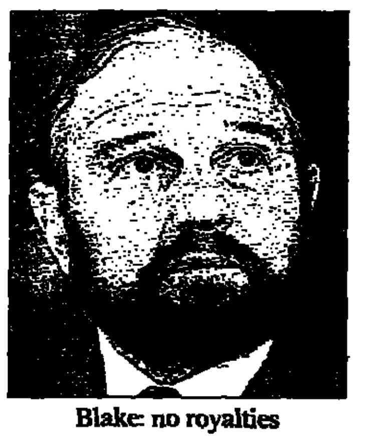
Three years ago the Treasury promised that this 25 per cent was sacrosanct. In the Commons on January 25, 1993, it pledged that its spending on arts or other charities would not be cut to match the extra coming in from the lottery. Ever since, the Treasury has struggled to circumvent that pledge. This year the temptation was too much and arts spending took the first axe. Now the Treasury is eager to shift lottery grants to current as well as capital spending, which will ease the path to further cuts in direct subsidies. Next it will probably press for lottery money to go to schools and hospitals. In other words, the lottery is on its way to becoming just one more source of general taxation.

Lotteries have provided a peculiarly acceptable form of tax, which is why banana republics love them. In Britain's case, the mild thrill of the lottery draw will incur what amounts to a luxury rate of tax of 37 per cent. But this tax is voluntary and, for many, it is clearly enjoyable. Lotteries are the way of the world. But we should stop pretending that they have anything to do with risk, capitalism or privatisation. Britain's state-regulated, state-protected, state-benefiting monopoly is John Major's dearest nationalised industry. The only risk is borne by the players.

Literary agent

THE GOVERNMENT has been trying to lure the Soviet spy George Blake back to Britain for a court case on April Fool's Day. The case has been prepared by civil servants in an attempt to secure the £90,000 amassed as a result of royalties from Blake's book *No Other Choice*.

Blake, who was responsible for the death of a number of British agents and now lives in Moscow, was offered the chance to attend the hearing but politely refused.


Blake: no royalties

Since its publication by Jonathan Cape in 1991, all moneys made from the book have been frozen in an application by the Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell. Blake, 73, received a £35,000 advance for the book he wrote in Moscow. At the High Court's Chancery Division, the Government will argue that the traitor has no right to the royalties, since the book was produced in breach of confidentiality. Lord Lester of Herne Hill has been appointed *amicus curiae* to ensure Blake gets a fair hearing.

No Other Choice deals with Blake's time as a middle-ranking officer within MI6, his arrest, conviction and 42-year sentence in 1961, his escape from Wormwood Scrubs and his life in Russia. Benedict Birnberg, the solicitor who represented the traitor until legal aid was refused, said Blake was hard-up and living on a pension from the institute where he worked in the Soviet Union.

THE TIMES DIARY

● *They indulge in unusual business practices in Iceland. A shop in Reykjavik advertised free mobile phones to anybody who turned up unclothed on a specific day. Twenty naked applicants, all male, duly showed — to be told that only ten phones were on offer. The nude clientele protested so vigorously that another ten phones were found immediately.*

Bogged down

I TRUST that this weekend will prove rather more restful for Lord Nolan than a recent Saturday he spent with the BBC. A radio car was dispatched to his Kent home early in the morning, so that he could take part in a live debate with Lord Donaldson of Lymington, former Master of the Rolls, on the behaviour of parliamentarians.

Transmission proved impossible from the noble lord's home, which sits in a hollow, so the BBC drove Nolan in its van into the countryside to find a suitable spot. Minutes before they were due on air, they still hadn't found one, so in desperation the driver pulled on to the verge — and got stuck.

The interview went ahead. Afterwards, Nolan hopped out to help to push the van, which promptly sunk to its axles. He was eventually rescued from the scene by his wife.

No Moore

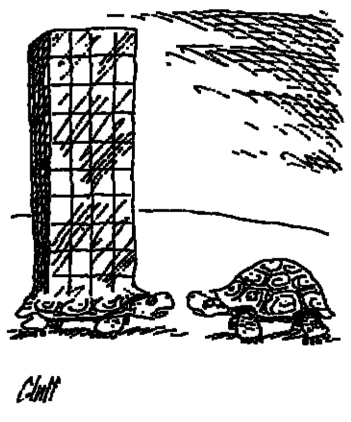
THE SIREN-LIKE antics of Demi Moore have signally failed to impress President Clinton at the White House. The sultry star of *Disclosure* and *Indecent Proposal* has been asking for help from the American Government for her latest film, *GI Jane*.

Makers of the film, an action thriller involving an elite US Navy corps akin to the SAS, asked for information from the Pentagon to ensure authenticity — but to no avail. In desperation, Moore called the White House herself and demanded attention. She met with a swift refusal on a number of occasions, however. She is, after all, married to Bruce Willis, a staunch Republican and long-time critic of President Clinton.

Broken art

DAMIEN HIRST, the pickled sheep of British art, is discovering that his works are not very long-lived. His deconstructed "op-art" paintings are falling to bits.

Hirst recently presented to the Colony Room Club in Soho a painting of coloured dots on canvas, entitled *Aprotinin*. Two of the discs have dropped off. The artist was unmoved by the news — he simply signed the blobs and stuck them back on, claiming the value of the painting had been increased immeasurably.

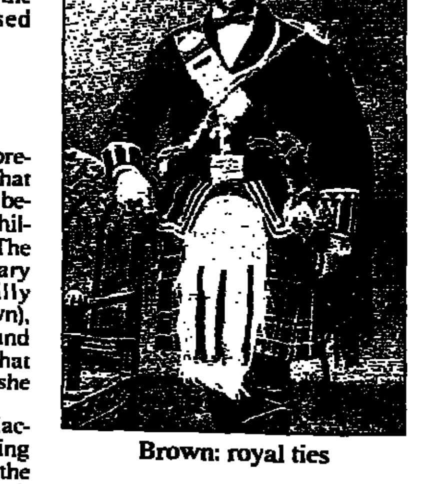

Cluff

"So I thought, what the hell, mortgage rates can't get much better"

Balmorality

THE ROYAL Family's current predicament has given new life to that old chestnut of the relationship between Queen Victoria and her ghillie at Balmoral, John Brown. The BBC is making a documentary about their relationship (Billy Connolly is tipped to play Brown), and a book being hawked around publishers suggests not only that they married secretly but that she also bore a child.

The author, Dr Micheil MacDonald, who has been researching the subject for 25 years, insists the relationship deserves fresh examination in the light of recent events within the Royal Family. "There is a whole matrix of evidence which is very compelling to suppose that Victoria did marry Brown and had his child," he says, claiming that a lady-in-waiting witnessed Brown emerging from the Queen's bedroom in the early hours and that a minister made a deathbed confession that he officiated at the secret marriage ceremony. Needless to say, the Countess of Longford, recognised as Victoria's definitive biographer, insists that Victoria would never have contemplated a sexual relationship with a subject, let alone a domestic servant.


Brown: royal ties

P·H·S

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NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD

The economy is healthy, but people do not believe it

Not since May 1966 has the interest rate charged on mortgages been lower than the 7.24 per cent announced yesterday by Britain's biggest lenders. For anyone shrewd or lucky enough to borrow money from Bradford & Bingley's Direct telephone-lending subsidiary, the new rate of 6 per cent to be announced next week will be the lowest generally available in this country since May 1960, when Harold Macmillan was Prime Minister. And mortgages in those days could be obtained only after finding a large deposit, saving loyally for years with a building society, often for derisory returns, and impressing its manager of one's moral worth. It can confidently be said that homeowners have never had it so good.

Why then do the country's homeowners, who also comprise a clear majority of voters, remain so resolutely sullen in the face of the Government's and the mortgage lenders' attempts to stuff their pockets with cash? One answer can be immediately dismissed. It is often argued that low interest rates are politically unhelpful and bad for consumer confidence because they reduce the incomes of savers. Such complaints disregard the benefits of rising stock and bond prices to many savers. Worse, they ignore the way that inflation and taxes used to eat away at their capital in the period which many unsophisticated small savers still think of as the glory days of 15 per cent interest rates. In fact, with today's low inflation and the many tax shelters created for savers in the past five years, the Government could claim convincingly that savers, as well as borrowers, "have never had it so good".

Why then is such optimism met with derision? The main reason is the sense of insecurity which Tony Blair has made Labour's political *leitmotif*. Many homeowners have lost their jobs, fallen into debt or had their equity wiped out by the slump in the housing market. For them even the present low interest rates seem painfully high. Worse still, many of the people worst affected by the housing slump are locked into usurious mortgage arrangements which prevent them from benefiting from the welcome outbreak of competition in the mortgage market. Even those homeowners and savers who are better off are workers for most of their waking hours — and in that capacity they feel more worried about the future than Britons have for 50 years.

There is not much the Government can do about this insecurity without compromising its free-market principles and endangering the foundations of the economic recovery. There is, however, hope on the horizon. As long as the recovery continues, unemployment will go on falling. With lower unemployment will come greater confidence, gradually rising house prices and opportuninities for people with negative equity gradually to repay their debts.

But will the recovery continue? This constantly-asked question encapsulates the second reason for the public's sullen mood. People do not believe that the present economic upswing is as soundly based as it actually seems to be. Part of the explanation goes back to the debacle of Black Wedensday. The Government's own propaganda during the ERM period has continued to haunt it. John Major worked so hard to convince the public that a floating pound and a monetary policy independent of Germany's would lead to disaster that people still find it difficult to believe that these very policies are now providing a sound foundation for steady non-inflationary growth. Indeed, the Chancellor himself seemed to succumb to such doubts this week when he implied that Britain's monetary policy would probably be less successful if it remained independent than if it joined a European monetary union.

Yet Margaret Thatcher's labour market reforms, combined with Mr Major's enforced conversion to monetary independence, really have made Britain's economy stronger than for decades. The question is whether the public — or ministers themselves — can be persuaded to believe this.

BEYOND THE BOUNDARY

More than cricket is at stake today in the Indian sub-continent

India and Pakistan — the "midnight's children" of cricket — have fought almost as many wars with each other as they have played Test matches. If India has had the edge on the battlefield, Pakistan is to date ahead on the cricket pitch. Today, in the southern city of Bangalore, the two countries face each other in the quarter-finals of the cricket World Cup: the match, the first on Indian soil between the two sides in nearly a decade, promises to be part cricket and part war. Old W. G. Grace, were he somehow to return, would not recognise the atmosphere; Prince Ranjitsinhji might, perhaps, but only with some local prompting.

Yet the true attractions of this game — apart from the frills of atavistic bitterness and antipathy in the stands — lie in the quality of cricket which the contest promises to provide. Both teams are crowded with cricketers of extravagant panache, although the Pakistanis must be accounted narrow favourites. Wasim Akram, their captain, is the most compelling cricketer in the world: with pace bowler Waqar Younis and leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, he leads an incisive attack. India's strength, by contrast, lies more in one man, the Bradmanesque Bombay batsboy Sachin Tendulkar.

It is a wonder, however, that both sides are facing each other in India at all. Pakistan and India no longer play cricket except on neutral territory, with the sub-continent's cricketers paying a sporting price for the diplomatic tensions which today bedevil relations between Islamabad and Delhi. Ever since the Kashmir dispute took a violent turn, religious extremists in both countries have vied with each in an ugly contest of jingoism. The Indian extremists are ahead, so far, on points: the Shiv Sena party, Hindu fundamentalists with a scant understanding of the place of cricket in India's civilisation, forced in 1991 the cancellation of Pakistan's last planned tour. The party's hotheads, drunk on anti-Muslim sentiment, forced their way into Bombay's Wankhede stadium, dug up the pitch and doused the square with petrol. Hours later, Pakistan called off its tour.

Today's match, however, will be as heavily policed as would a visit to Bangalore by the Queen. There will be more police present at the ground than there could ever be runs scored, even with Tendulkar at his brimming best: that is as it should be, for a violent incident will have impressive diplomatic repercussions. But if the match passes off as the cricketers themselves would like it to — with the scoring of runs, the taking of wickets and the grasping of steep catches taking precedence over the memories of past battles fought — the gains to both countries would be incalculable.

If the two countries have not fought a war with each other for a quarter of a century, they have not played much cricket either. The latter is cause for profound regret. There is much that India and Pakistan share — history, language, food and culture — but there can be no bond between them more compelling than that of cricket. Let them play cricket today, and play again more often. If they can address each other with bat and ball, they will soon address each other, more constructively, beyond the boundary.

THE PIGEON PIEMAN COMETH

Survival of the fattest: pigeons were made to be plucked

Pigeons make up the chorus-line of the urban landscape. From Trafalgar Square to the Piazza San Marco, whether perched messily on the heads of statues of worthies, or swooping up in flocks for no apparent reason, they are support players in the grand architectural ensemble. So this mysterious pigeon-napper of Trafalgar Square is attacking a sentimental urban archetype.

Scotland Yard calculates that he has already removed 4,000 pigeons in his big box, and that if he is not stopped, all the pigeons will be gone from Trafalgar Square within seven months. That underestimates the capacity of those shabby grey unemployables to fill a vacuum. It also misunderstands the place of the pigeon in the food chain. For pigeons to be fed on tourist-trap grain and Soho black bags, and then to be recycled through the same Soho restaurants might seem a virtuous cycle. But urban pigeons can be unhealthy immigrants, and infect their eater with diarrhoea or even terminal belly-ache. Demand from restaurants for suspiciously cheap pigeons is not likely to last.

Pigeon was once a staple of the national menu. Even middling medieval establishments kept dovecots for the kitchen, as they had stews for their fish. Pigeon was dish of the day for Louis XIV, especially served with peas. That prototypical French gourmet La Varenne gives a recipe for pigeons and green-pea stew in which the birds are poached in stock and then garnished with lettuce, peas and bacon. Mrs Beeton recommends a formula for cold pigeon pie, seasoned and stuffed with *foie gras* and quartered truffles, and padded out with plovers' eggs and some good forcemeat.

But for some, it seems, the plain recipe is simple. First take the Northern Line to Trafalgar Square. Then catch your pigeon, without difficulty. Why otherwise is a pigeon medieval thieves' cant for a gullible dupe who can be easily trapped by a rook or wideboy? Try to make sure it is a clean wood pigeon recently flown to town, not a Cockney squab. Then pluck it. The feathers come off more easily than a goose's, and thrifty countrymen saved fingernails by simply cutting off pigeons' breasts and skinning them. Then cook your pigeon with peas, bacon, onion, sweetbreads and pastry.

Supermarkets and packaged food have alienated the public from the fundamentals of carnivorous eating. Our phantom pigeon-fancier of Trafalgar Square deserves an OBE for bringing us back to basics. When Jean Knowlson, "the pigeon lady of Purley", has been banged up in Holloway twice this year for feeding pigeons, it is paradoxical to pursue the pigeon man. But it would be safer for bird's nest squab in Chinatown, as well as ecologically correct, if he could now turn his attention to Canada geese which are destroying the parks, and grey squirrels — delicious barbecued with roots. Blow sentimentality. Tom Lehrer's song *Poisoning Pigeons in the Park* was not in bad taste, apart, just, from the poison.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Long-term look at a single currency

From Mr Michael Fabricant, MP for Staffordshire Mid (Conservative)

Sir, With the publication of the Government's White Paper on the European Union imminent before the latest round of inter-governmental conferences, it is opportune to consider with whom and where Britain's long-term future might lie.

While the British Government and some of those few other EU countries which are net financial contributors to the Union are keen to devolve powers away from Brussels, the majority of member States are net beneficiaries and are deeply federalist.

Lifelong partners should be compatible whether in marriage, business, or political union. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, is wise to explore and strengthen relationships across the Atlantic.

In the not too distant future the United States may well decide that it needs compatible partners who share a common culture and legal system. Strains are already developing in the North American Free Trade Area relationship. The election of John Howard as Prime Minister of Australia (report and leading article, March 4) may expose difficulties in that country's relationship with South-East Asia.

"Maastricht mark 2" must not limit Britain's future options through the surrender of our gold and foreign currency reserves to a European central bank and a single currency.

If our relationship with Europe prospers, all will be well. If it does not, and as Britain cannot prosper in isolation, there will come a time when we may wish to seek other more global partners with whom "we can do business".

In the next century we may need the independence of our own currency to forge our own destiny.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL FABRICANT,
House of Commons.
March 8.

From Mr Bill Cash, MP for Stafford (Conservative)

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky ("Is the euro beyond our Ken?", March 5), in a clear reference to my call for Kenneth Clarke to consider his position on the issue of a single currency, argues that it would be preferable for those such as myself to take up the Chancellor's call for a national debate.

Your readers may have noticed that this is what I have been seeking for the past six years and more, not least in the Maastricht debates (when I put down over 200 amendments in my own name), in your own columns and elsewhere, in pamphlets published by the European Foundation and in its *European Journal*.

In truth we have had a national debate. The problem is that sympathisers of Kenneth Clarke have not taken the blindest notice, despite proof that the ERM did not work, leading to massive unemployment, loss of businesses and homes, a gargantuan PSBR, higher taxation to deflate it and accompanied by broken promises. To the discomfort of the Euro-fanatics, as the truth has dawned, there has been a deep shift in electoral opinion on a single currency throughout the whole of Europe.

Our economy has improved (since September 16, 1992) but only despite the European policies of those committed to the ERM and monetary union after these had failed. They are simply not prepared to recognise that they were wrong and they cling to the wreckage of the Maastricht treaty. This needs fundamental renegotiation in the inter-governmental conference in British and European interests. It is hurting but it is not working.

Failing to repudiate the single currency and fixed exchange rates simply lets Labour off the hook. Blair and Brown could not deliver their promises for health, education and jobs and at the same time obey the requirements of monetary union.

I am all for a further genuine national debate (and Europe-wide) but, in the absence of a referendum, which the Chancellor resists, how would the result be judged? The issues are already clear. What we need now is a decision — in next Tuesday's White Paper on Europe.

Yours faithfully,
BILL CASH
(Chairman),
The European Foundation,
61 Pall Mall, SW1.
March 8.

Manners at 160mph

From Mr J. Whittle

Sir, Your Car 96 section (March 2) discusses in laudatory and enthusiastic terms the production and sale of a Jaguar car capable of 160mph, describing it as "female-friendly". Selfish, insensitive, antisocial, yob-friendly would be a better description.

Another of your adjectives is "aggressive". Nobody needs an aggressive car. No civilised person would want one. Why are they made? Why does the law permit them to be used on our roads?

By the way, the interviewee in your "Steering Column" appears to express remorse at breaking the law while driving. Is this a record?

Yours faithfully,
J. WHITTLE,
185 Garstang Road,
Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire.

Democratic deliberation on future of British monarchy

From Dr Allan Jackson

Sir, I am personally ambivalent about the desirability of royalty as an institution (letters, March 4, 5). But there is no doubt that the Prince of Wales will, on his accession, be the most capable, best-informed and best-educated monarch of this country since Queen Elizabeth I.

Here is a man who has been educated in Britain and Australia; holds an honours degree; paints; writes; rides; plays polo; has parachuted; flies aircraft; and has captained a ship. He is committed to good husbandry, environmental care, and the built environment. More importantly, he has established The Prince's Youth Business Trust which, by the start of this year, had helped over 26,000 young people (especially disabled persons, members of minority communities and ex-offenders) launch over 22,000 businesses.

Compared with the appalling mediocrity of most of his royal forebears and of many of his political, ecclesiastical and establishment contemporaries, Prince Charles stands out as a beacon of some hope for this country's future. His private life is immaterial.

Yours sincerely,
ALLAN JACKSON,
14 Latimer Lane,
Guisborough, Cleveland.

From Mr Malcolm Winram

Sir, Politicians debating the future of our monarchy resemble a poachers' convention deliberating on the future role of the gamekeeper. If we do not wish to face the future election of the legal and military guardians of this nation, at party whim, then politicians should not be permitted such a disproportionate voice in the future of the British monarchy.

Royal individuals may have their imperfections but these should not be used to bring into existence the question of the monarchy, particularly by the group from whose political excesses it protects us. We have given politicians no such mandate and if they wish to play a role in this matter let them do so democratically by first seeking the electorate's will.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM WINRAM,
27 Rothsay Road, Bedford.
March 7.

From Mr Brian Hobley

Sir, The call for a debate in Parliament on the role of monarchy (report, March 4) is to be applauded.

The scale of publicity now being given to the actions and behaviour of certain members of the Royal Family, especially the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York, has revealed an indulgent lifestyle that is totally inappropriate at a time when millions have to see the quality of their lives worsen.

This raises the question of the true full cost of the monarchy to the taxpayer, including a range of subsidies and services apart from the Civil List payments. These subsidies cover such things as patronage, security, maintenance of royal palaces and apartments, "grace and favour" accommodation, and what some might consider excessive pageantry, pomp, and ceremonial.

Yours,
BRIAN HOBLEY,
4 Village Farm Court,
Weston-on-the-Green, Oxford.

From Mrs Jennifer Miller

Sir, Our Queen is probably the best-known public figure in the world. She has devoted her life to the service of our country and Commonwealth. Who could equal her probity and self-sacrifice? She never has a day's respite from state business, and last year fulfilled 650 official engagements at home and overseas, while the Prince of Wales carried out nearly as many, including his brave and historic visit to the Republic of Ireland.

Altogether the Royal Family carried out a total of over 4,000 such engagements last year. Meanwhile the Treasury took a profit of £85 million from the Crown Estates, while the Civil List given in exchange for this remains fixed at £7.9 million, and in any case only pays allowances to the Queen, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and Prince Philip.

This country should realise before it is too late how much we are indebted to our monarchy, both figuratively and literally.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER MILLER,
2 Heathview Gardens, Putney, SW15.

The spoils of war

From Dr John Drewe

Sir, I note with dismay that a spokesman for the Union Bank of Switzerland has dismissed as "a fairy-tale" claims that there are substantial assets from Holocaust victims in dormant Swiss accounts (report, February 24; see also report, February 8, and letter, February 14).

Five years ago, in Moscow, I examined German files taken from Berlin by the Soviets in 1945-46, including records of two of the agencies involved in the systematic theft of art treasures by the Nazis between 1935 and 1944. It is clear that some of those treasures fell into the hands of the Allies in 1945 and that by 1948 over two million items had been returned to 13 European countries.

Between 1949 and 1951 the collection and storage of the remaining items was organised under the auspices of the Ministers-President of *Länder*. However, in 1952, the Federal German Government assumed this responsibility, and in 1955 the onus for returning stored items to the original owners was transferred to the Government by the Allies.

As a result of my investigations, I have no doubt that a significant number of the paintings, archives, books and treasures stolen from the occupied territories and placed in the central repositories in Munich, Wiesbaden, Marburg and Offenbach in 1946, are still being kept in hidden stores in Germany. Yet any action on the return of the smaller of these collections is virtually embargoed.

Although Article 15 of the Cultural Treaty (1992) between Russia and Germany specifies the contractual arrangement for the mutual return of cultural treasures, the emphasis of that treaty is necessarily on major state collections.

During the last 50 years there has been no concerted attempt by the German authorities methodically to examine the existing records, in order to identify and return the remaining stolen items.

Two years ago a number of important paintings from pre-war private collections, stored in East Germany since the war, were returned to France (report, June 28, 1994) and the valuable stamp collection of the Latvian Post Office, held in Berlin since 1942, was returned to Riga in June 1995.

The artefacts and gold jewellery excavated by Heinrich Schliemann from Hissarlik, Mycenae and Tiryns, and given by him to the Berlin municipality, were captured by the Soviets in 1946 and are now in St Petersburg. The German Government has consistently claimed that they should be returned to Berlin under the 1992 treaty, while the Russians have asked Germany for the return of some 40,000 items, including the Amber Room taken by the Wehrmacht from Tsarskoe Selo in 1941-42.

However, there is unequivocal evidence that the Amber Room is no longer intact and that the pieces were separated and auctioned in Berlin during the latter stages of the war. An official admission of this fact by the Germans would certainly not improve the chance of reaching an agreement on the return of other items, including the Schliemann collection.

The value of treasures confiscated by the Nazis from Hungarian Jews alone greatly exceeds the £21 million from Holocaust victims which the Swiss Bankers' Association claims to be lying in dormant Swiss accounts — an inconceivably low estimate in view of the information now becoming available from the German files stored in Poland and Russia.

These files can be cross-referenced with prewar catalogues and some of the original owners can thus be identified. There is surely an obligation on the German Government to do so.

Yours faithfully,
J. DREWE,
Greenmantle,
Washington Close,
Reigate, Surrey.
March 7.

Hymns today

From Canon Michael Saward

Sir, Readers of Mr Andy Lund's letter of March 5 might believe that I had accused Graham Kendrick, the Christian songwriter, of writing "happy-clappy choruses devoid of meaning". I did no such thing. Graham Kendrick's songs are full of Christian doctrine, which can hardly be said of many modern religious songs and choruses.

Mr Lund, however, unwittingly reinforces my main point. Kendrick's *We Believe*, he argues, "contains the complete Creed". Not so. That hymn, good as it is, confuses the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, omits all references to the key incarnational doctrines, to the nature of the Church, baptism, the communion of saints, forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and eternal life, and goes on to add a non-credal gloss on the work of the Holy Spirit plus an extra passage from the Letter to the Philippians.

A good hymn, but certainly not "the complete Creed". A great many of those who sing it presumably think it is the Creed and many of them may well belong to churches which never use the Creeds in their worship. I repeat my main point: churches relying on a diet of "songs and choruses" are at high risk of creating theological ignorance.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SAWARD,
6 Amen Court, EC4.

Hostages and arms

From Mr L. J. McLoughlin

Sir, Lord Howe (letter, March 6) mistakes the relative importance of the fatwa, as against Iran/Iraq arms supplies, in determining Iran's attitude and therefore the fate of the British hostages (letter, March 2).

The Iranians had ample evidence that Iraq was receiving more favourable treatment in terms of arms supplies from Britain following the ceasefire.

Many Conservatives have concentrated so much on sophisticated arguments over modifications of guidelines that they have ignored the facts of how matters were perceived on the ground. The Iranians could, through their friends and agents here and in the Middle East, see for themselves the evidence of increased arms supplies to their most bitter enemy.

Yours sincerely,
L. J. McLOUGHLIN
(Director),
London Centre for Arab Studies
(Publishers),
Vicarage House,
58-60 Kensington Church Street, W8.
March 8.

Asthma research

From Mr Bob Clough-Parker

Sir, You report today on the research published this week in the *British Medical Journal* on a 1994 thunderstorm that led to London hospitals being overwhelmed by requests for treatment from asthma sufferers. I do hope that this will once and for all put paid to well intentioned but uninformed sympathisers who tell asthmatics that "you must feel better now that it's rained".

Yours faithfully,
BOB CLOUGH-PARKER,
The Bond, Godstal Lane, Chester.
March 8.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Martin Bell

From Mr Stephen Fisher

Sir, Now that Martin Bell has decided to "hang up his flak jacket" ("Time to give peace a chance", March 6) and retire from the role of war reporter, I very much hope that he will find a role where he will bring to the reader, listener or viewer the same succinct, straightforward and professional reporting that he has provided during the last 30 years, very often under the most difficult of circumstances.

Mr Bell states that he did not choose the career, rather it chose him. I am very grateful that the choice was made and wish him well for the future.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN FISHER,
The Lodge,
Tarrant Monkton,
Blandford Forum, Dorset.
March 6.

Lottery changes

From Mr I. N. G. Selwyn

Sir, The changes in the lottery rules for those with three correct numbers (letters, March 8) imply that, currently, the group of £10 winners is not using up the segment of cash available for it.

The natural quid pro quo to the proposed scaling down is that, in most weeks, the three-number prize should be more than £10.

Yours faithfully,
I. N. G. SELWYN,
32 St Mary's Avenue,
Northwood, Middlesex.

From Miss Sally Jackson

Sir, I buy my lottery tickets for eight weeks at a time. I was under the impression that I have a contract with Camelot which lasts until the April 6 draw and includes a guaranteed £10 minimum prize.

Surely even if Camelot can get away with this sleazy change to their regulations, they cannot do it at such short notice. I believe legally contracts can only be changed with the agreement of both parties.

Yours faithfully,
SALLY JACKSON,
The Folly,
High Street, Buxted, East Sussex.

From Mr Mark A. P. Groves

Sir, I am bemused by Mr Morton's letter (March 8) concerning a £10 win. Surely you are £10 better off by winning £10 than by not? Or is this just the difference between optimism and pessimism?

Yours faithfully,
MARK GROVES,
Warren Down, Burcombe Lane,
Wilton, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

From Mr Phil Hayes

Sir, Whilst I agree entirely with your leader today on those charlatans at Camelot, I must point out that Red Rum did not win the Grand National three times running — unless you mean literally running, as opposed to walking.

His third victory in 1977 was uncoupled from his second in 1974 by L'Escargot (1975) and Rag Trade (1976).

Yours faithfully,
P. HAYES,
27 Hazelwood Lane,
Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire.
March 8.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 8: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, today visited Cambridge and were received at the Railway Station by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden) and the Mayor of Cambridge (Dr Sonja Froggett).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness drove to the Judge Institute of Management Studies and were received by Professor Sir David Williams (Vice-Chancellor, University of Cambridge) and Professor Sandra Dawson (director).

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh toured the Institute, meeting faculty and staff members and viewing displays on the Institute's work.

Her Majesty subsequently opened the new building.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh afterwards visited Jesus College to mark its Quincentenary and were received by the Master (the Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn).

Her Majesty, with His Royal Highness, opened the new Library and met Fellows, graduates, undergraduates and others connected with the College.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon visited Sidney Sussex College to mark its Quartercentenary and the foundation of the new William Mong building and were received by the Master (Professor Gabriel Horn).

Her Majesty, with His Royal Highness, honoured the Master and Fellows with her presence at Luncheon.

The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, afterwards opened the new Law School Building and was received by the Chairman of the Faculty of Law (Professor John Spencer).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness toured the building, meeting students and those connected with the new building and viewing displays on the history and teaching of law at Cambridge.

The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, later opened the new Trinity College residential development at Burrell's Field and was received by the Master (Sir Michael Atiyah).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness toured the building and met staff, graduates and undergraduates.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 8: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's), this afternoon received Colonel Anthony Griffiths upon relinquishing his appointment as Honorary Colonel, 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion.

His Royal Highness, President, this evening presented the Royal Aero Club Annual Awards at St James's Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 8: The Princess Royal, Immediate Past Master, the Worshipful Company of Woolmen, today visited Axminster Carpets, Axminster, and Coldharbour Mill, Uffculme, Cullompton, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Devon (Lieutenant-Colonel the Earl of Morley).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, SENSE — the National Deafblind and Rubella Association, this evening attended a SENSE Midlands Tenth Anniversary Spring Dinner and Ball at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 8: The Duke of Kent left London on an official visit to Portugal. His Royal Highness later attended a reception for the British Community in Lisbon, and a dinner given by Her Majesty's Ambassador, Mr Roger Westbrook.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Air Marshal Sir Roger Austin, 56; Mr Bill Beaumont, sports broadcaster and writer, 44; Mr Andrew Bennett, MP, 57; Dr M.G. Brock, former warden, St George's House, Windsor Castle, 76; M André Courreges, fashion designer, 73; Mr Herbert Coutts, head of Museums and Galleries, City of Edinburgh District Council, 52; the Hon Sir Roualeyn Cumming-Bruce, former Lord Justice of Appeal, and his twin brother Lord Thurlow, 84; Mr Bobby Fischer, chess player, 53; Mr John Golding, trade unionist, 65; Major-General J.P. Groom, former director-general, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, 67; Mr Neil Hamilton, MP, 47; Professor Sir Donald Harrison, laryngologist and otologist, 71; Dr T.L. Johnston, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Heriot-Watt University, 69; General Sir Frank King, 77; Sir Norman Lindop, former Principal, British School of Osteopathy, 75; Mr R.G. Martin, company chairman, 75; Mr David Matthews, composer, 53; Sir Ronald Melville, civil servant, 84; Sir Nicholas Monck, civil servant, 61; Professor K.E. Robinson, former Vice-Chancellor, Hong Kong University, 82; Mr Howard Shelley, concert pianist and conductor, 46; the Right Rev James Simpson, former Moderator, General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 62; Professor Sir David Weatherall, haematologist, 63; Mr David Willetts, MP, 40.

TOMORROW: Prince Edward celebrates his 32nd birthday today. Sir Lawrence Airey, former chairman, Board of Inland Revenue, 70; Sir Robert Bellinger, former president, National Savings Committee, 86; Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian Burnett, 83; Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, 49; Mr Fou Ts'ong, concert pianist, 62; Sir Angus Fraser, former chairman, Board of Customs and Excise, 68; Dame Margaret Fry, former chairman, National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, 65; Rear-Admiral Sir John Garnier, 62; Sir Samuel Goldman, civil servant, 84; Sir Charles Hardie, chartered accountant, 86; Mr Warren Hawksley, MP, 53; Mr Hugh Johnson, wine expert, 57; General Sir John Learmont, 62; Mr Tony Leonard, Chief Constable, Humberside, 57; Mr Michael Montague, former chairman, English Tourist Board, 64; Mr Graeme Odgers, chairman, Monopolies and Mergers Commission, 62; Sir Michael Straker, former chairman, Northumbrian Water, 68; Captain Michael Torrens-Spence, former Lord-Lieutenant of Armagh, 82; Mr Peter Wormald, Registrar General for England and Wales, 60.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00.

TOMORROW: The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00. The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

Reception

Royal Aero Club
The Duke of York, President of the Royal Aero Club, was received by Mr Frederick O. Marsh, chairman, and presented the annual awards at a reception held yesterday at St James's Palace. The Britannia Trophy was awarded to Mr Chris Rollings and Mr Chris Pullen for the first ever 1,000km glider flight in the United Kingdom. The club's Gold Medal was awarded to Ms Judy Leden, for winning the Women's World Championship Paragliding title in 1995 and the club's Silver Medal was awarded to Mrs Diana Britten for becoming the British Aerobatic champion.

Dinners

Cordwainers' Company
The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs were present at the annual dinner of the Past Wardens of the Cordwainers' Company held last night at the Law Society Hall. Mr Christopher King, Master, assisted by the Wardens, presided. The Lord Mayor, the Master Cutler in Hallamshire and Mr Jeremy Skinner also spoke.

Woolmen's Company
Mr Clifford S. Dennis, Master of the Woolmen's Company, presided at a livery and ladies' dinner held last night at the Tiverton Hotel, Tiverton. Mr W. Brian Dunn also spoke. Among those present were:
The Head Warden of the Incorporation of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen of Exeter, Mr C Hutchison, Mr Tom Mor and their ladies, Miss Jill Taylor and Mr Simon J Wright.

University news

Emmanuel College, Cambridge
Professor John Eirwyn Ffowes Williams, Fellow of the College and Rank Professor Engineering (Acoustics) in the University of Cambridge, has been pre-elected as Master of Emmanuel College. He will take up office on October 1, 1996, on the retirement of the present Master, Lord St John of Fawsley.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Richard Atkinson, Team Rector, Sheffield Manor: to be Vicar, Rotherham (Sheffield).
The Rev Stephen Bailey, Priest-in-charge, St Michael, Betchworth and St Mary the Virgin, Buckland: to be Rector, St Michael, Betchworth and St Mary the Virgin, Buckland (Southwark).
The Rev William Beaver, formerly NSM, St John the Divine, Kennington (Southwark): to be Honorary Assistant Curate, St Mary Redcliffe w Temple, Bristol and St John the Baptist, Bedminster (Bristol).
The Rev Pauline Bicknell, Parish Deacon, Leeds St Aidan: to be Assistant Curate, Rothwell (Ripon).
The Rev Jonathan Boardman, Precentor, St Albans' Abbey (St Albans): to be Team Rector, Catford (Southend) and Downham Team Ministry (Southwark).
The Rev Roger Clegg: to be Chaplain (part-time) of HM Prison, Askham Grange (York).

JULIAN HERBERT

The Queen Mother and Major Oliver Ellwood with the spoils of victory

Queen Mother returns with a win

BY A STAFF REPORTER

QUEEN ELIZABETH the Queen Mother made history yesterday when one of her horses won the Horse and Hound Grand Military Gold Cup for a fifth time.

Attending her first race meeting since her hip operation in November, she witnessed Norman Conqueror take her into the record books with a two-and-a-half lengths success at Sandown.

Norman Conqueror was handed a significant advantage when his main rival, Mr Boston, stumbled to the ground after jumping the first of the Railway fences on the final circuit. The 11-year-old maintained his lead, under Major Oliver Ellwood, to score from the fast-finishing Irish Bay with Equity Player third.

The victory was the 412th for the Queen Mother who may now be represented in the Grand National by Norman Conqueror. Tim Thomson Jones, the trainer, admitted he had been anxious: "I haven't slept for a week. Hopefully he will now go to Aintree but he is not the soundest horse in the world and the race comes quite quickly. He's a bit arthritic but he's got guts."

The Queen Mother had not visited a race meeting since the King George at Ascot last July. She last had a runner in the Grand National when Laffy fell in 1965. Corals quote Norman Conqueror a 40-1 chance.

Racing, pages 44-45

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.B. Barton and Miss K.G. Studholme-Wilson
The engagement is announced between Steven, son of Mr and Mrs Daniel Barton, of The Dillies Farm, Cirencester, and Karina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Simon Studholme-Wilson, of Oxleaze, Cheltenham.

Mr C.K.M. Belton and Miss D.B. Channon
The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Belton, of Oxted, Surrey, and Denise, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Channon, of Cobham, Kent.

Mr J.F.M. Cullen and Miss S.E. Chavasse
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs Laurence Cullen, of Kedington, Suffolk, and Sarah, youngest daughter of the late Judge Michael Chavasse, QC, and of Mrs Chavasse, of Ticehurst, East Sussex.

Mr R.L.T. Cusack and Miss N.R. Boddington
The engagement is announced between Russell, younger son of Professor and Mrs Matthew Cusack, of Alveston, Bristol, and Nicola, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Boddington, of Crowcombe, Somerset.

Mr W.J.H. Esplen and Miss H.S. Chesser
The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr J.G. Esplen, of Merriott, Somerset, and Mrs V.J. Esplen, of Bramley, Surrey, and Helen, daughter of Dr D.T.S. Chesser, of Chipstead, Surrey, and Mrs A.E. Self, of Shere, Surrey.

Mr D.G.C. Hawker and Miss K.J. Nash
The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of Mr P. Hawker, of Worcester, and Mrs E. Meachem, of Nassau, Bahamas, and Kathryn, only daughter of the late Mr Tony Nash and of Mrs J. Hammond, of Monmouth, Gwent.

Mr F.A. Mosier and Miss S.P. Wellesley
The engagement is announced between Frank, elder son of Mr and Mrs Frank Mosier, of Saratoga, New York, and Sarah Paige, younger daughter of the Earl and Countess Cowley, of Castletown, The Isle of Man.

Flying Officer T.J. O'Brien and Miss E.C. Stephens
The engagement is announced between Timothy, younger son of Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs R.P. O'Brien, of Innsworth, Gloucester, and Emma, daughter of the late Mr R.H. Stephens and of Mrs H.R. Pocock and stepdaughter of Mr H.R. Pocock, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Mr M.B. Reynier and Miss M. Gray
The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of the late Olivia Reynier and of Mr Peter Reynier, of Lindfield, West Sussex, and Maureen, eldest daughter of the late Philip Gray and of Mrs Mary Gray, of Bedford, Bedfordshire.

Mr J.F. Oyler and Miss S. Hanger
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Oyler, of Kensington, London, and Sue, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R.W. Hanger, of Harlaxton, Lincolnshire.

Mr J.R.C. Seale and Miss M.J. Taylor
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Sir John and Lady Seale, of Slade, near Kingsbridge, South Devon, and Michelle, daughter of Mr and Mrs K.W. Taylor, of Mattishall, Norfolk.

Mr N.V. Truefitt and Miss J.C. Tanner
The engagement is announced between Nigel, younger son of the late Mr Charles Truefitt and of Mrs Daphne Truefitt, of Windlesham, Surrey, and Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Albert Tanner, of Cliftonville, Kent.

Mr P.R. Willis and Miss K.F. Hannay
The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Mr and Mrs Brian Willis, of Northwood, Middlesex, and Katy Hannay, eldest daughter of Mrs Henry Fraser and stepdaughter of Dr Henry Fraser, of Newcastle-on-Clun, Shropshire.

Lord-Lieutenants

Algernon Heber-Percy to be Lord-Lieutenant for Shropshire; Hugo Brunner to be Lord-Lieutenant for Oxfordshire.

Church services tomorrow

Third Sunday in Lent
BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, O living Bread that once didst die (Whitlock); 3.30 Choral E, O vos omnes (Vittoria).
BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Call to remembrance (Farrant), Professor W Ustorf; 4 Choral E, Hear my prayer (Purcell), Canon B Harper.
BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Commonwealth Day, Ubi caritas (Duruflé), Rev D Chilongani; 3.30 Choral E, Salve salutaris victima (Phillips), Canon A Redfern.
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M, Drop drop slow tears (Walton); 11 S Euch & Confirmation, The Bishop; 3.15 E, Salvator mundi (Blow); 6.30 Compline, The Precentor.
CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, The Lamentation (Bairstow), Canon D Weston; 3 E, Miserere (Allegri).
CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC, The Vice Provost; 9.30 S Euch, The Lord Bishop; 11.15 S Euch, O Salutaris hostia (Elgar), The Lord Bishop; 6 Choral E, An heart that's broken and contrite (Oldroyd), Canon D Knight.
CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Missa O Magnum Mysterium (Vittoria), Canon J Newcome; 11.30 Choral M, Ye are now sorrowful (Brahms), Canon T Dennis; 3.30 Choral E, Miserere mei Deus (Allegri); 6.30 E, Canon T Dennis.
CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Hear my prayer O Lord (Purcell), The Bursalis Preb; 11 S Euch, O Saviour of the world (Ouseley), The Precentor; 3.30 E, O Lord almighty God (Naylor).
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, O gladsome light (Oxley), Canon V Faull; 3 German; 5.30 E, Christus factus est (Bruckner).
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M & Sermon, Canon Peirce; 11.15 S Euch, Ubi caritas (Duruflé); 6 E, Ave Maria (Parsons).
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon D Brown; 10 M, Salvator mundi (Tallis); 11.15 HC, Crucifixus etiam pro nobis (Lotti), Canon R Coppin; 3.30 E, Christe qui lux es et dies (Byrd); 8, University Chaplaincy Lecture.
ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Euge Bone (Tye), Rev Dr R Marsh; 3.45 E, O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Howells).
EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Call to remembrance (Farrant), the Bishop of Crediton; 11.15 M, God so loved the world (Stainer), The Precentor; 3 E Blessed Jesu (Dvorak); 6.30 E, Turn thee again (Attwood), Rev P Webb.
LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, Like as the hart (Howells), the Provost; 3 Choral E, Salvator mundi (Blow), Canon G Paddock.
LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, O Lord increase my faith (Loosemore), Rev I Hayter; 3.30 E, O Lord my God why has thou forsaken me? (Humphrey).
LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Little organ mass (Haydn), The Precentor; 11.15 M, Hear my prayer (Holmes); 3.45 E, O Lord look down from heaven (Battishill), Rev R Crossland.
LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 L & Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina); 3 Choral E, Fauxbourdons (Gibbons), The Dean; 4 HC.
LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L; 8, 12.15 H Euch, Rev N Court; 9 Confirmation & Parish Euch, The Lord Bishop; 11 S Euch, Emendemus in melius (Byrd), the Canon; 3.30 Choral E, O Lord God of Hosts (Purcell); 6.30 Parish E, Rev J Redvers.
MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Communion Service in E (Darke), Have mercy upon me (Allegri), the Archdeacon; 6.30 E, Walmisley in D minor, Lord let me know mine end (Greene), The Dean.
NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Lord let me know mine end (Greene); 6.30 E, Walmisley in D minor, Salvator mundi (Blow).
PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 8 L; 8.15 HC; 9.30 M, Benedicite in F (Dyson); 10.30 Euch, Darke in E, The Dean; 3.30 E, Dyson in F, Like as the hart (Howells).
SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, The Dean; 10 Euch, Thee we adore (Plainsong), Canon J Osborne; 11.30 M, Drop drop slow tears (Walton), Canon J Davies; 3 E, Out of the deep (Morley); 3.45 Interment of ashes.
SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Congregational Mass, Thou wilt keep him (Wesley), Canon G Tolley; 6.30 E & Sermon, Fourth Service (Batten), Beati Quorum (Stanford), Canon T Page; 8 Christ in Quiet.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 10.55 Choral Euch, Teach me O Lord (Byrd), Rev M Kitchen; 3 Choral E, Call to remembrance (Farrant), Rev H Cunliffe.
SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Parish C; the Chancellor; 11 S Euch, Missa O quam Gloriosum (Victoria), Canon R Austin; 3.15 E, The Wilderness (Wesley); 5.45 Compline.
WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, the Provost; 9.15 Parish C; 11 Solemn Euch, Benedictus Sumsion in G, Canon G Nairn-Briggs; 4 E, Hear my prayer (Mendelssohn), Canon B Ellis.
WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Rev M Walker; 11.30 M, Ave verum corpus (Hendrie); 3 E, Let the people praise thee (Mathias), the Rt Rev R Lewis.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, The people will tell (Handel), Canon C Semper; 11.15 Euch, Salvator mundi (Tallis), Crucifixus (Lotti), the Dean; 3 E, Cast me not away (Wesley), Rev B Schunemann; 5.45 Organ; 6.30 Rev B Fenton.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12; 5.30, 7 Mass; 10 MP; 10.30 Solemn Mass, Missa Triste depart (Lassus), In felix ego (I) (Byrd), Quid igitur (II) (Byrd); 3.30 Solemn V&B, Magnificat tertii tone (de Monte), Ad te igitur (III) (Byrd); 4.30 Recital.
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Benedictus (Windsor Service) (Howells), Emendemus in melius (Byrd), the Archdeacon; 11.30 Euch, Fantasia in F minor/major (Mozart); 3.30 E, Gloucester Service (Howells), Remember Lord what is come upon us (Walmisley), Rev M Coppen.
YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina), Very Rev R Furnell; 11.30 M, The Lamentation (Bairstow); 4 E, O Lord the heathen are come (Child), Rev T Gill.
ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral M, Insanae et vanae curae (Haydn), The Dean; 3.30 EP.
ST DAVID'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, The Succentor; 11.15 Choral M, Laudate Dominum (Mozart), The Dean; 6 Choral E, O Lord look down from heaven (Battishill), The Dean.
ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8,10.6 LM; 11.30 Solemn M, Mass for 4 voices (Byrd), Ave verum (Byrd), Rev J Pannett; 2 Chanaian Mass, Bishop H Tripp.
ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 Morning HC, Mass for four voices (Byrd), the Minister; 11.30 Morning, Like as the hart (Howells), The Minister; 6 Lenten Address Talk, Rev K Clements; 8 Evening, Rev K Clements.
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Armagh: 10 HC; 11 M, Call to remembrance O Lord (Farrant); 3.15 E & L, Incline thine ear (Hummel), Rev W Twaddell.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, O sacrum convivium (Messiaen), Rev M Saward; 3.15 E, Lord let me know mine end (Greene), Rev C Cocksworth; 5.15 Organ.
ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP, 11 HM, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Rev J Davies; 6 Solemn E & B, the Short Service (Causton), Rev P Johnstone.
ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 Communion; 11 Rev J Cook; 6.30 Guest service, Rev A Rider.
AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, Tottenham Court Rd, W1:
THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa quo abiit dilectus tuus (Manchicourt), Unus ex discipulis meus (Vittoria), Si ambulem in medio (Tye).
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10 Children; 11 M, Nolo mortem peccatoris (Morley), Dr P Elvy; 6 E, Rev D Bean.
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30 Rev S Hood.
FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 Solemn Latin.
HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 ASB HC, Rev N Lee; 11 Informal, Rev S Downham; 5, 7.30 Informal, Mr K Costa.
THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Super flumina Babylonis (Guerrero), In jejunio et fletu (Tallis); 12.30, 4.30 Mass, 7; 3.30 V & B, Miserere nostri (Tallis).
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH, Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.
WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 Morning, Rev P Hulme.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 10 HC; 11 Morning; 6.30 E Praise, Rev Dr P Graves.
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev P Schmiege; 7 Lutheran Choral V, Fantasia & Fugue (Reger), Rev P Schmiege.
ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Benedicite (Ashfield), Byrd for 5 voices, Drop slow tears (Leighton), Canon J Oates.
ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral M, The Lamentation of Jeremiah (Bairstow), Benedictus (Gibbons), Hear my prayer (Purcell), Rev Fr J Daly.
ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev C MacLeod; 6.30 Rev W A Cairns.
ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 9, 11 S Mass, Plainsong Mass for a Mean (Sheppard), Absterge Domine (Tallis), O Sacrum Convivium (Tallis)
ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Byrd 4 part, Crucifixus (Lotti), the Rector.
ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Lotti), God is a Spirit (Bennett), Rev B Wilson; 6 Choral E, Short Service (Byrd), Bow thine ear (Byrd).
ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev M Robins; 5.45 EP.
ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family, Processional (Mathias), Rev D Horn; 6.30 HC, Rev M Holmden.
ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 MP & HC, Hide not thy face (Farrant), Rev S Watson; 6.30 E, The Tree (Harvey), Very Rev M Mayne.
ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Ad Te levavi oculos meos (Palestrina), Rev A Shaw.
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Ireland in C, The Lamentations of Jeremiah (part 2) (Tallis), Rev P Cowell.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev C Herbert; 11.30 Visitors, the Vicar; 2.45 Chinese, Rev G Lee; 5 Choral E; 6.30 Evening office in Lent.
ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, Rev F Gelli; 11.15 Choral M, Miss L Buxton; 6.30 E, Rev F Gelli.
ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM Communion in the Phrygian Mode (Wood), Fr S Young; 6 Solemn E & Solemn B.
ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch, Mass (Plainsong), The Lamentations (Bairstow), Rev L van der Pump; 6 EP & prayer & meditation.
ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Short Service (Tallis), Ich aber bin elend (Brahms), When David heard (Tomkins), Rev H Ruschmeyer.
ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd), Cross Vigil (Shaw), Fr A Chidwick.
ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 8 HC; 11 MP, Jubilate (Thalben-Ball), Domine qui promisisti (Williams); 6.30 E, Canon Porter.
ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 Solemn M, Missa a 4 (Heredia), Exaudi Deus orationem meum (Lassus), Jesu dulcis memoria (Victoria), Canon C Colven.
CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M & Sermon, Like as the hart (Howells), Rev L Thomson.
CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Faire is the heaven (Harris), Rev S Young.
GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Leighton), Salvator mundi (Tallis), Rev S Hobbs.
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Like as the hart (Howells), The Chaplain; 12.30 HC.
THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Lord for thy tender mercies' sake (Hilton), Remember O Lord what is come upon us (Walmisley), Ven G Cassidy.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, O Lord increase my faith (Gibbons), Wash me throughly (Wesley), Bank of the Scots Guards, Rev J Gough; 12 HC.
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, Merbecke, Wash me throughly (Wesley), Rev C French.

Anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: Amerigo Vespucci, explorer, Florence, 1451; William Cobbett, essayist and politician, Farnham, Surrey, 1763; Ernest Bevin, Foreign Secretary 1945-51, Winsford, Somerset, 1881; Vyacheslav Molotov, statesman, Kukaida, Vyatka, 1890; Victoria Sackville-West, novelist and biographer, Knole Castle, Kent, 1892; Samuel Barber, composer, West Chester, Pennsylvania, 1910; Yuri Gagarin, first astronaut to orbit the Earth 1961, Smolensk, 1934.
DEATHS: Jules Mazarin, cardinal and statesman, Vincennes, France, 1661; Arnold Toynbee, social philosopher, London, 1883; William I, German Emperor 1871-88, Berlin, 1888; Hippolyte Adolphe Taine, philosopher and historian, Paris, 1893; Frank Wedekind, dramatist, Munich, 1918.
British police deported Archbishop Makarios from Cyprus to Seychelles for fostering terrorism, 1956.

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: Friedrich von Schlegel, philosopher and historian, Hanover, 1772; William Etty, painter, York, 1787; Arthur Honegger, composer, Le Havre, 1892.
DEATHS: Muzio Clementi, pianist and composer, Evesham, 1832; Taras Shevchenko, poet, Ukraine, 1861; Giuseppe Mazzini, Italian patriot, Pisa, 1872; David Beatty, 1st Earl Beatty, Admiral of the Fleet, London, 1936; Mikhail Bulgakov, dramatist and novelist, Moscow, 1940; Laurence Binyon, poet, Reading, 1943; Jan Masaryk, statesman, Prague, 1948; Frank O'Connor, writer, Dublin, 1966; Konstantin Chernenko, General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party 1984-85, Moscow, 1985.
A Japanese soldier who believed the Second World War was still being fought was found in hiding on Lubang Island in the Philippines, 1974.

BMD'S: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 9313
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Exalt the Lord our God, and bow down towards his holy mountain; for holy is the Lord our God.
Psalm 99 : 9 (REB)

BIRTHS

BISHOP - On February 23rd, to Fiona (née Barclay) and David, a son, Robert Daniel, a brother for Oliver.

BUNNING - On 8th March 1996, to Louise and Jon, a son, Toby Harrison, a brother for Thomas and Jack.

COPISAROW - On 7th March in Portland, Oregon, USA, to Richard and Wendy, a son, Justin Alcon.

CROSSLEY - On November 12th 1995, to Antoinette and Dominic, a beautiful son, Calum Terence, 9lbs 9oz in New Zealand. A baby brother for Darryl and Francesca.

de KLEE - On March 5th, to Fiona (née Leslie) and Richard, a son, Lachlan Richard John, a brother for Frederick.

de SOISSONS - On 6th March 1996, to Silvie (née Toti) and John-Paul, a daughter, Mariella Sophie.

DODSON - On 5th March in Hong Kong, to Kirsty (née Riddle) and Mark, a son, Hamish Robert Kenneth, a brother for Fenella and Chloë.

EDWARDS - On 6th March 1996, to Philippa (née Kind) and Andrew, a daughter, Poppy Elizabeth Philippa, a sister for William, Jemima and Eliza.

FOX/BENNETT - On 27th February, to Ruth and Philip, a son, Alistair Peter Fox, a brother for Patrick and Thomas.

HUNTER - On March 1st 1996, to Margaret (née McLoughlin) and Ian, a son, Jonathan Michael Kellock, at The Matilda Hospital, The Peak, Hong Kong. A welcome brother for Ruth.

KARLSEN/YOUNG - On March 3rd in Norway, to Annabel and Fred, a son.

LANGMAN - On Saturday March 2nd 1996 at The Lindo Wing, St Mary's, Paddington, to Alexandra (née Merivale-Austin) and Nicholas, a son, Oliver William Austin, a brother for Alexander and Christian.

MILLER - On March 2nd, to Kate (née Jenkins) and Simon, a son, Gabriel Aymeric John.

ROOK - On March 5th at St Thomas' Hospital, to Tiffany (née Bevan) and William, a son, Hugo Charles.

RUCK - On 5th March 1996, to Sophia (née Buchan) and David, a daughter.

SEARS - On March 2nd 1996 at The Portland Hospital, to Nicola (née Spear) and Jason, a second beautiful daughter, Morgan Roberta, a sister for Georgia.

SOLMS - Born on 2nd March at The Portland Hospital, to Karen (née Kaplan) and Mark, a healthy boy named Leon.

WILKINSON - On 6th March 1996, to Sally (née Jarram) and Guy, a daughter, Madeleine Grace.

DEATHS

BARDSLEY - Peacefully on 7th March, Anthony Woodhouse T.D. Dearly loved husband of Peggy. Funeral on Wednesday 13th March, at 2 pm at Mortlake Crematorium, London, SW14. All enquiries to Barnes & Sons, (0181) 743-4312.

COX - Foster, much loved father of Simon and father-in-law of Hania, died peacefully after a short illness aged 96. Funeral private. No flowers please.

de AVENDANO - On March 1st 1996 in hospital in Madrid, Sheelah Louise Fisher de Avendano, aged 64. Daughter of Lt. Col. C.P. Fisher, RAVC, MRCVS, and his wife Joan Wrangham, widow of senor don Jose Luis de Avendano y Porrua and dearly loved mother of Luis, Miguel and Sylvia. The burial will take place in Santander, Spain, on March 9th. A memorial service will be held at the British Embassy Church of Saint George in Madrid on Friday March 15th at 7.30 pm. Address: Ribera del Manzanares 5, 28008 Madrid, Spain.

FOOKS - Henry Raymond Harvey, died peacefully with his family on 8th March 1996, much loved husband of June, father of Caroline, Serena and Sarah and grandfather of James. Thanksgiving Service at All Saints Church, Eyke on Wednesday 13th March at 12 noon. No flowers but donations to Chest Unit, Ipswich Hospital.

FORBES - David Ochoncar of Parkneuk, Corse, peacefully in Cornwall on Sunday 3rd March after a long and trying illness, characteristically borne. Cremation private. Subsequent commemoration in Aberdeenshire. Donations, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

LEACH - Andrew Roy, suddenly on March 7th 1996. Adored husband and father. To be remembered on Thursday March 14th at 1.30 pm St James', Christleton, Chester. No flowers, donations to RNLI and the Hospice c/o Dutton and Hallmark, 80 Faulkner Street, Hoole, Chester, CH2 3BQ, tel: (01244) 310966.

MUKHERJEE - Anita on March 6th 1996 peacefully amidst all her family in Eden Hall, London, aged 54, wife of N.N., mother of Sumi and Mome, grandmother of Rana, Monni, Rtu and Tanmoy. Donations, if desired, to Eden Hall Marie Curie, 11 Lyndhurst Gardens, London NW3 5NS.

PATON - James Malcolm, died peacefully at home on 6th March. Funeral Thursday 14th March St Barnabas Parish Hall, Dulwich Village at 2 pm. No flowers by request, but donations if desired to St Christopher's Hospice, 51 Lawrie Park Road, SE26.

PEET - On March 6th 1996, Lt Col Stanley William (Bill) Peet MC TD, late The Queens Regiment, passed peacefully away in hospital after a long illness borne with courage and fortitude. Dearly loved and sadly missed husband of Pamela; much loved father of Sally and Tim, and beloved grandfather. A private cremation will be followed by a Memorial Service at St Matthew's Church, Leavenheath, Colchester, on Tuesday March 12th at 11 o'clock. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to The Army Benevolent Fund, c/o Hunnaball Funeral Services, York House, 41 Mersea Road, Colchester, Essex.

RACKHAM - Arthur. Peacefully at home after a long illness, aged 73 years, on March 6th 1996. Wine merchant, dearly loved husband of Billie and dear father of Gillian, Pamela and James. Requiem mass at St Erconwald's Church, Walton-on-Thames, Thursday 14th March, 10am, followed by a burial at Burvale Cemetery, Hersham at 11.15 am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Walton Community Hospital, c/o Mrs Caroline Stickney, Hospital Administrator (in memory of Arthur Henry Rackham), Rodney Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 3LB.

VAUGHAN-DAWKES - Richard Charles aged 59 years, peacefully in Wellington, New Zealand. Beloved husband of Christine, father of Helen and Caroline, brother of John and the late Mary Bradshaw. Late of Abergavenny and the Royal Grammar School, Guildford.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

CAMOYS - Sherman Stonor, 6th Baron, of Stonor Park. Died suddenly, tragically, March 9th, 1976, aged 62. Beloved, gentle father of Julia. Deeply respected, greatly admired, never forgotten. Heroically Christian.

SENTA MARHAU - 9th March, 1988: Elle bradizel/ elle phangel/ menel leuim/ to gimeni.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

HANKEY - L.H.A. (Mark) Hankey OBE. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held on Monday April 22nd at 2.30pm at Castle Rising Church, near King's Lynn, Norfolk, with refreshments afterwards. If wished all donations may be sent to the Secretary, I.A.P.S., 11 Waterloo Place, Leamington Spa, CV32 5LA or at the Church for the Joint Educational Trust and St George's Choir School, Windsor.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MEETING
The Law Debenture Corporation p.l.c.
Notice of Meeting of the holders of the 4½% Perpetual Debenture Stock
Proposed redemption at 60% of its principal amount.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the holders of the 4½% Perpetual Debenture Stock of The Law Debenture Corporation p.l.c. (the "Corporation") constituted by an Indenture dated 9th May 1890 and deeds supplemental thereto (the "Indenture") will be held at the offices of the Co-operative Insurance Society Limited, Miller Street, Manchester, M60 0AL at 12.30pm on 21st March 1996 to consider and, if thought fit, pass a Resolution which will be proposed as an Extraordinary Resolution in accordance with the provisions contained in the Indenture to sanction the redemption of the Stock on 29th March, 1996 at 60% of its principal amount with interest accrued to such date.

J. K. Howell, Secretary.

Further information, including details of how to vote, are set out in an explanatory letter available from the Secretary, The Law Debenture Corporation p.l.c., 96, Gresham Street, London EC2V 7LY. A copy of the explanatory letter has been sent to the registered address of each Stockholder.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
Chancery Division
Companies Court
In the Matter of
Index FX Limited
And in the Matter of
the Companies Act 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 28th February 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £3,000,000 to nil and from the date of the said Petition the capital of the Company be increased by such number of shares of US$1 each (rounded down to the nearest US$) as will have an aggregate nominal value (rounded down as aforesaid) equivalent to £3,000,000 at the rate of exchange offered by Barclays Bank Plc at midday on the date of registration of the Court Minute confirming such reduction and increase.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL on 20th March 1996.

Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction or increase of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the under mentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 7th day
of March 1996.
M.W. Cornish & Co.
of 11 Old Jewry
London EC2R 8DU.
Solicitors
for the above named Company.
REF: DO/BL/A802
Tel: 0171 600 0910

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS WANTED

INTERNATIONAL companion / carer / child minder seeks post in Bahamas, NZ, Hawaii, elsewhere. Excellent references available. 01909 373115.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
TO CLIFFORD KAPLAN
Address Unknown and lately residing at Flat 4,
11 Eton Avenue, London NW3

TAKE NOTICE that a Statutory Demand has been issued by American Express Europe Limited Address (registered office) P O Box 68, Amex House, Edward Street, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 1YL.

The creditor demands payment of £57,109.87 the amount now due on a judgment of the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, Maidstone District Registry dated the 24th March 1995.

The Statutory Demand is an important document and it is deemed to have been served on you on the date of the first appearance of this advertisement. You MUST deal with this Demand within 21 days of the service upon you or you could be made bankrupt and your property and goods taken away from you. If you are in any doubt as to your position, you should seek advice IMMEDIATELY from a solicitor or your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau.

The Statutory Demand can be obtained or is available for inspection and collection from: Brachers, Somerfield House, 59 London Road, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8JH.
Solicitor for the creditor
Tel: 01622 690691
Ref: 112

YOU HAVE ONLY 21 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT BEFORE THE CREDITOR MAY PRESENT A BANKRUPTCY PETITION.

BIRTHDAYS

K. Lots of Love and joy on your birthday. E.

MILLS Susan - Happy 90th birthday on March 10th. Love and cuddles from your great grandchildren, Jack and Katherine Rundle and Charlie Rundle. XXX

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

COHEN PERCY SEYMOUR Late of 42 Century Court, Grove End Road, St. John's Wood, London NW8 9LD Died 10th September 1995. Particulars to Booth & Blackwell (Solicitors) of 76 Shoe Lane, London EC4A 3JB by 10th May 1996.

CUNEO, TERENCE TENISON of 201 EMBER LANE, EAST MOLESEY, SURREY KT8 0BU died on 3RD JANUARY 1996 particulars to KIDD RAPINET Solicitors of 14 & 15 CRAVEN STREET, LONDON, WC2N 5AD (ATTN: A S HUTCHINSON ESQ) before 10TH MAY 1996

STARK, SHEILA CHRISTINA of THE RIVIERA, AFTON DOWN, FRESHWATER BAY, ISLE OF WIGHT died on 15TH DECEMBER 1995 particulars to KIDD RAPINET Solicitors of 14 & 15 CRAVEN STREET, LONDON, WC2N 5AD (ATTN: R D A SWEETING) before 10TH MAY 1996

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OBITUARIES

MARIE-HÉLÈNE DE ROTHSCHILD

Baronne Marie-Hélène de Rothschild, wife of Baron Guy de Rothschild, head of the French branch of the banking family, died on March 1 at Ferrières-en-Brie, Seine-et-Marne, aged 68. She was born in New York on November 17, 1927.

FOR three decades, Marie-Hélène de Rothschild dominated the Parisian social scene, the so-called Tout Paris as it was known before its eclipse at the end of the 1980s. She organised sumptuous charity balls and exhibitions, was a patroness of the arts, a pillar of the haute couture world, and a leading breeder, and owner (with her husband) of such horses as Exbury, winner of the Arc de Triomphe in 1963.

However, few people outside her immediate circle knew that for this same period she was a sick woman suffering from a serious respiratory complaint. For French people at large, she was a model of elegance, charm and considerable energy.

In many respects she was the modern successor of the aristocratic ladies who had run the salons in the 17th and 18th centuries. She and her husband entertained lavishly, first at the Château de Ferrières, designed by Sir Joseph Paxton, architect of the old Crystal Palace, for Baron James de Rothschild in the 1830s. The great house was the ancestral home of the French branch of the dynasty until 1975 when Guy and Marie-Hélène de Rothschild donated it to the University of Paris and moved to the famous Hôtel Lambert, the 17th-century mansion on the Île St-Louis, which is one of the finest private houses in Paris.

Here, they entertained the 1,000-odd "names" of the Tout Paris in the Galerie d'Hercule with its Le Brun ceiling. Government ministers, aristocrats, actors, writers and painters dined at the Rothschild table and mingled in the formal classical garden. The Gaullist political elite of the Fifth Republic, notably the Pompidous (her neighbours on the Ile St-Louis) and the Chiracs, were among the regulars on her invitation list.

She was the daughter of the Baron Egmont Van Zuylen van Nyevelt de Haar, a leading Belgian diplomat, and his Egyptian-born wife, the former Marguerite Nametalla. She was educated at Marymont College in the United States.

Her first marriage was to Comte de Nicolay. After their divorce she married Baron Guy de Rothschild in 1957. They had met at the races at Deauville. He was a prominent owner, while she had her own colours since 1952 and had won her first classic in 1953. After the New York wedding, she took an interest in the running of the Rothschild stable, the Haras de Meautry, and was often in the winner's enclosure at Longchamp and Deauville.

Her effervescence contrasted with the reserved manner of her husband and she was, in a sense, the public face of the French Rothschilds, who shunned any form of public flamboyance. The 1960s and 1970s were good years for the family as France prospered and the former Rothschild employee Georges Pompidou became first Prime Minister and then President. He and his wife enjoyed the company of the Baronne Marie-Hélène with her blonde, bouffant-style hairdos.

The downside for the Rothschild couple came after the Socialist electoral victories at the beginning of the 1980s and the nationalisation of the Rothschild bank. Marie-Hélène followed her husband into golden exile in New York after he had declared that he had been considered "a Jew under Pétain and a pariah under Mitterrand".

They were back in 1985 on the eve of the Conservative victory in the National Assembly. One of her first acts was to throw a large charity ball at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs on the Rue de Rivoli, to which she invited the Chiracs, Nureyev, Yves Saint Laurent and Catherine Deneuve, among others.

It was a typical Baronne Marie-Hélène soirée in that she had organised it all herself — the invitations, the false sky-blue ceiling with embroidered stars, the orange decor, the tableware, above all, the seating arrangements at the 47 tables for ten. The press announced that she was back. Other glittering charity functions followed, one at Versailles itself.

However, times were changing and this kind of activity, although it raised millions of francs for restoring museums and, more importantly, for medical research — the baronne's special interest — was not considered appropriate in a period of recession. In addition, her health, always fragile, began to deteriorate. She lived to see her son Edouard and Guy de Rothschild's other son, David, by his first marriage restore the Rothschilds banking position.

She and her husband continued to live in the mansion on the island, but built a smaller house on the Ferrières estate. It was there that she died after spending two years on an artificial respirator.

The baronne is survived by her husband and her son Edouard.

PREBENDARY NEWELL WALLBANK

Prebendary Newell Wallbank, Rector of St Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield, 1945-79, died on March 3 aged 81. He was born on June 30, 1914.

NEWELL WALLBANK served the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield, in the City of London, for the whole of his active ministry, from ordination in 1937 until his retirement in 1979. He was the inspiration behind its fine musical tradition. He once observed, with typical self-deprecating humour, that he had really done very little except appoint good organists.

Newell Eddius Wallbank was born in Hexham where his father was organist. The Rector of Hexham Abbey, Canon Edwin Savage, was his godfather. In the Abbey he early absorbed the rich musical tradition of Anglicanism and developed a lasting delight in historic buildings. He won a music scholarship at St Michael's School, Tenbury, and another at Bloxham. He was music scholar at Queens' College, Cambridge, where he pursued the dominant disciplines of his life, classics and music; he went on to take a DMus at Trinity College, Dublin, because he was too young to take it at Cambridge, and later a PhD, also in music, from London.

After training for the ministry at Ripon Hall, Oxford, he served his title with Canon Savage, who had by then moved to Smithfield. In the fashion of the time, Savage lived in Eastbourne and came up to London at weekends to take services, often having to leave before the end of Evensong to catch the train home. Wallbank did all the pastoral work and through the Blitz he fire-watched at the church, kicking incendiaries off the roof despite his fear of heights. He returned to the clergy house one day to find it and all his possessions destroyed. In 1945 he succeeded Savage as Rector, despite objections by the Bishop of London, Geoffrey Fisher, that he was too young. The great days of St Bartholomew's began.

Much of the necessary work of restoration, undertaken in these years, was routine and had to do with lighting and heating; but Wallbank's skills were obvious in both liturgy and music.

The foundation of an outstanding musical tradition was laid when he appointed Paul Steinitz as organist in 1949. After him in 1961 came the immensely talented Brian Brockless and then, 1971-79, Andrew Morris, with whom Wallbank enjoyed a particularly creative relationship.

A large and eclectic congregation was drawn to the Priory Church by good music and intelligent preaching. Regular concerts and music festivals attracted an international audience. Wallbank also extended the church's life, re-establishing links with St Bartholomew's Hospital, welcoming the Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor and the 600 Squadron, and nurturing his livery companies, especially the Butchers and the newly established company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators.

He played a full part in the life of the City, which made him an Honorary Freeman, and he was three times Lord Mayor's Chaplain. He loved the Priory far too much to accept preferment on the one occasion an archdeaconry was offered him but he was appointed a prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral in 1964.

So much of his life was hidden that few appreciated its depths. He was widely read in all types of literature. He played the piano every day, systematically working through the composers and himself composed a good deal of music. He said Morning and Evening Prayer daily and read weighty theological and spiritual material, and every day did some Latin poetry.

These habitual practices were continued into retirement at Dorney where he offered regular assistance to the local churches; he also prepared confirmation candidates and taught music at Eton College.

He collapsed and died in the Priory Church during the opening moments of the Memorial Evensong for Brian Brockless (who died in December) at which he was to haver preached. As a friend observed, he never could resist gently upstaging his Directors of Music.

He is survived by his wife Phyllis, whom he married in 1942, and by a daughter and two sons.

CHRISTOPHER HARMER

Christopher Harmer, corporate lawyer and wartime member of MI5, died on February 19 aged 85. He was born on November 16, 1910.

ONE of a small group of men working for a secret organisation in the Second World War, Christopher Harmer was among those responsible for recruiting and running double agents feeding false intelligence to the Germans.

He became a master of the art, acquiring more experience than most of his case officer colleagues working for MI5's Section BIA which had been set up by Major "Tar" Robertson. He was involved in some of the great deception missions, including Operation Fortitude, designed both to convince the Germans that Allied landings in Europe would be via the Pas de Calais and to mislead them about the strength of forces deployed in Normandy.

Christopher Hedley Harmer was born in London, the second son of an eminent London surgeon, Douglas Harmer. He was educated at Marlborough and King's College, Cambridge, where he graduated with a first in the Law Tripos. He qualified as a solicitor in 1935 and became junior partner in a newlyfounded firm in London.

At the outbreak of war in 1939 he served with the Honourable Artillery Company in charge of an anti-aircraft unit before being recruited into MI5's Section BIA.

In March 1941, in his own words, Harmer was translated overnight from a world of gunpits and army life to an environment of spies and counter-spies. By the time he joined Section BIA, it was controlling a network of enemy agents who had been turned — some by conviction, others by persuasion — to work against their German masters on Britain's behalf.

Among Harmer's cases were the agents codenamed Mutt, Jeff and Brutus, the latter becoming one of the three most important double-cross agents active in Operation Fortitude. With Harmer acting as their controller, Mutt and Jeff, two Norwegians who had been inserted by German seaplane off the west coast of Scotland in April 1941 — and who surrendered on arrival — supplied the Germans with naval and military intelligence to sustain the deception about Allied intentions in 1943.

They sent a stream of information about troop movements in Scotland, aimed at persuading the Germans that an invasion of Norway was imminent, when the Allies were actually planning landings in North Africa under Operation Torch.

Brutus, a Polish former fighter pilot, worked for the French Resistance but was betrayed to the Germans who sent him to England to be a double agent, where he turned again and became a successful double-cross agent, initially under Harmer's tutelage.

Harmer was promoted to major in 1944 and continued his distinguished intelligence career on attachment to SHAEF where he acted as link between the Overlord planners and both the XX Committee and Section BIA. His role was to feed back deception policy on Operation Fortitude for Section BIA to implement.

In June 1944, Harmer went on to serve with 21 Army Group running double agents in the field in France and Belgium. For his work in training American officers in deception work, he received the US Bronze Star medal for "exceptionally meritorious performance of duty in secret military operations".

His wartime colleagues described him as a man of immense imagination and energy. It was during his years at MI5 that he met and married his wife Peggy, the daughter of Major-General Sir Leslie Phillips.

After leaving MI5 in 1945 Harmer returned to his legal career and chose to work in the Midlands. In 1947 he joined the law firm of Pinsent & Co in Birmingham as a partner and raised it to the status of one of the leading corporate law firms in the country. His clients included some of the major industrial companies of the time like GKN, Tube Investments and Alfred Herbert — all then rooted in the industrial heartland of the West Midlands.

His intelligence, creativity and capacity for work were legendary, as was at times his reputation for frantic departures to the station accompanied by files, secretaries and articled clerks. He was president of the Birmingham Law Society in 1968 during its 150th anniversary year.

The qualities which marked him out from his professional peer group throughout his career were his wit, humour and breadth of mind. In the three decades up to his retirement in 1975 he was to observe the decline in the industrial manufacturing base of the West Midlands — a process which he felt passionately the Government and industry should seek to reverse.

A great family man and host, he spent his retirement years at Aynho in Northamptonshire where he maintained a number of business interests while indulging his passion for reading, current affairs and music, most notably the works of Elgar. He was for many years vice-chairman of the Elgar Birthplace Trust and Elgar Foundation. He was also a watercolourist in the English tradition.

He is survived by his wife Peggy, and two sons and two daughters.

WILLIAM BULWER-LONG

William Bulwer-Long, Norfolk landowner and former Jockey Club steward, died from a heart condition on February 25 aged 58. He was born on May 9, 1937.

WILLIAM BULWER-LONG came close to the medieval ideal of the "compleat man". He was a conservationist, a soldier, an accomplished sportsman and rider, and a lover and writer of poetry. But, first and foremost, he was a countryman, and among his many achievements the most important was the restoration of Heydon Hall, his family seat in Norfolk.

In the early 1960s this imposing Elizabethan house stood vacant and unkempt with its parklands in a woeful state of decay; indeed, it might have made an excellent film set for Miss Havisham's mansion in David Lean's version of *Great Expectations*.

In 1962 Bulwer-Long married Sarah Jane Rawlinson, who had been brought up at Heydon Hall, her father having rented it from Bulwer-Long's parents who lived in the village. Together they dreamt of restoring the house, and through sheer hard work eventually turned the dream into reality. At the same time Bulwer-Long doggedly stuck to sound principles of land-owning and preservation — principles which had nothing whatever to do with a profit motive.

His hedges and water-meadows, contrary to current practice, remained; cottages on the estate were restored and let, not to outsiders, but to young married local people. In the end, the reward was not simply in the pleasure of achievement, but in the village of Heydon being declared in 1971 Norfolk's first conservation area.

William Hanslip Bulwer-Long was the son of Brigadier "Boy" Long and Molly Bulwer, heiress to the Heydon estate which had come into her family by marriage in the 18th century. He was educated at Wellington and Sandhurst and in 1957 was commissioned into the 9th Lancers. He served for ten years, in Germany, Northern Ireland and Aden and as aide-de-camp to the GOC Northern Command at York.

In addition to his professional soldiering, Bulwer-Long showed immense enthusiasm as an amateur over a wide spectrum of sporting activities, being chosen for the Army Cresta team in 1961 and representing his regiment at athletics, boxing, rugby and swimming. He was a talented rider, and between 1955 and 1977 (during which time, while at York, he used to ride out for the trainer Mick Easterby) he won 35 point-to-points as well as two races under National Hunt rules, one of them being the Grand Military Hunters' Chase in 1965 on Your Honour. He was, also a good man to hounds, hunting with the Cottesmore and the Quorn.

In 1985 he was elected to the Jockey Club, becoming a steward from 1991 to 1993 as well as a highly enterprising and much-liked chairman of the licensing committee and point-to-point liaison committee in those same years. He was also a director of Newmarket Racecourses Trust and Fakenham Racecourse (his local course) as well as acting as a local steward at Aintree, Cheltenham, Fakenham, Newmarket and Great Yarmouth.

Outside racing, Bulwer-Long's vigorous championship of country ideals (which included writing a weekly column for the *Eastern Daily Press*) brought him wide recognition. He was High Sheriff of Norfolk from 1988 to 1989 and was made a Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk in 1992. Just before his untimely death, he learnt that he had been awarded the Royal Agricultural Society's Bledisloe gold medal for this year.

He leaves his widow, two sons and a daughter.

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ON THIS DAY

March 9, 1931

Noisy burglar alarms are by no means a recent problem. They were making life difficult for neighbours 60 years ago. The writer suspected housebreakers were happy to work on amid the din.

BURGLAR ALARMS.

The Police Committee of the Corporation of London have been thinking about burglar alarms, which make altogether too much noise. Every one who has suffered from an alarm clock knows how unwelcome prolonged buzzing can become, and there will be general sympathy for the Ward of Cripplegate Without which reports the presence of alarms that ring for thirty-six hours on end. Such sustained agitation is bad for the nerves of a neighbourhood, especially at the week-end, when the City is supposed to be quiet.

The City has always shown a keen sense of the rights of property. But it is possible to have too much of a good thing, and word is to be given to the insurance companies that they will do well to be somewhat less overwhelming in their defensive precautions. It is no business of neighbours, of course, what people choose to keep and guard, but a great deal of scepticism has been aroused, and there are plenty of people to say that there are limits to the noise you can make in defending your possessions. After all, burglars work well in a din, and nothing stifles the sound of a safe being cracked like a row of alarms ringing in adjoining houses and shops.

Burglars work very quietly these days, and have found a new ally in condensed milk which can be spread over glass to deaden the sound of cutting, and it is something of a problem how to encourage them to make more noise. Alarms that ring in the street frighten everybody, including the burglars, and justice is not done. It would be very much better if burglar alarms were content to follow the practice of ordinary electric bells and to ring where they were wanted, in this case inside the nearest police station. The burglar, not knowing whether he had rung an alarm or not, would continue his leisurely depredation until he was caught red-handed. The neighbourhood would sleep on undisturbed, and the police would find the police station a quiet and pleasant place in proportion as there were no burglars in the district and no jarring bells.

Perhaps the day will come when all houses, or at any rate all houses built under public schemes, will have not only water and light laid on, but will also be connected with the local police station by an alarm.

The only thing that will be sacrificed is the vanity which makes people like to go away for the week-end leaving the burglar alarm ringing that their neighbours may never be allowed to forget what very valuable possessions are being guarded with so much noise.

Sth

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY MARCH 9 1996

NEWS

Mortgage price war intensifies

■ The mortgage price war intensified yesterday after the Chancellor announced his third interest rate cut in four months. High Street lenders led by the Halifax, the biggest building society, immediately shaved a quarter of a percentage point off their home loan rates to about 7.25 per cent. But the Bradford & Bingley reduced one of its variable rates to 6 per cent **Pages 1, 21**

Pigeon fancier raids Trafalgar Square

■ A dearth of woodpigeons before Christmas is likely to have triggered the theft of feral birds from Trafalgar Square. Police hunting a man who is believed to have trapped and carried away 4,000 of the square's birds were told yesterday the urban poacher may have found a ready market .... **Pages 1, 5, 21**

Scots tax block

Labour will block a new Scottish Parliament from raising taxes .... **Page 1**

Cricket, lovely cricket

Almost a billion Indians and Pakistanis — a fifth of the world's population — focus on the cricket world cup .... **Pages 1, 21, 48**

Snub for Adams

Senator Edward Kennedy has refused to see Gerry Adams when the Sinn Fein president arrives in Washington .... **Page 2**

'Devil' woman

Caroline Beale, 32, may have believed she was possessed by the devil when she killed her baby in New York, said her psychiatrist as the civil servant returned to Britain.................................. **Page 3**

Lung donors

Two people have given part of their lungs to save a dying girl in the first British operation involving living lung donors .... **Page 4**

Threat to Aviemore

Aviemore ski centre may be forced to close after conservationists blocked a £17 million plan to build the highest railway station in Britain in the Cairngorms .... **Page 8**

Referendum row

Kenneth Clarke and John Major were at odds over a referendum on a single European currency **Page 9**

Bosnia mass killer

A former Croat soldier in the Bosnian Serb Army has confessed to participating in the massacre of Muslim civilians.............. **Page 11**

China missiles

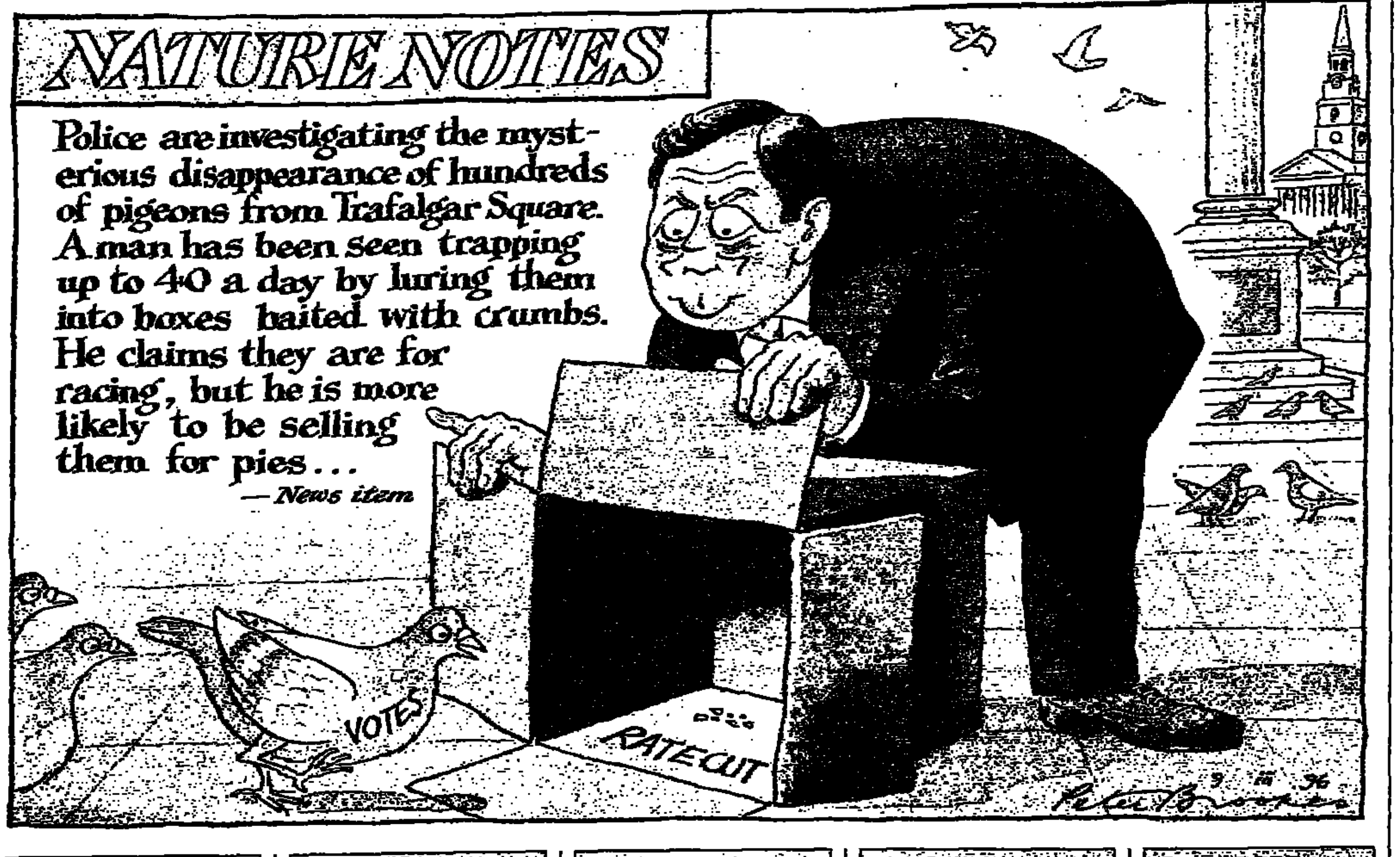
China launched three ballistic missiles off Taiwan, spreading alarm across East Asia and beyond .... **Page 14**

Victory for Dole

Driven by the powerful juggernaut of the Republican Party, Robert Dole routed his competitors in the New York primary ..... **Page 15**

Researchers called to the bar

■ Academics are to carry out a long term study into heavy drinking with the help of a £433,278 Government grant and 500 hardened drinkers. Male guinea pigs will have to drink at least 50 units a week, the equivalent of 25 pints .... **Page 1**


NATURE NOTES
Police are investigating the mysterious disappearance of hundreds of pigeons from Trafalgar Square. A man has been seen trapping up to 40 a day by luring them into boxes baited with crumbs. He claims they are for racing, but he is more likely to be selling them for pies...
— News item
VOTES
RATE CUT
9 · iii · 96
Peter Brookes

OPINION

Never had it so good: Why do homeowners remain so sullen in the face of the Government's attempts to stuff their pockets? .... **Page 21**

Beyond the boundary: India and Pakistan face each other in the quarter-finals of the World Cup: part cricket and part war .... **Page 21**

The pigeon pieman cometh: Supermarkets and packaged food have estranged carnivorous eating .... **Page 21**

LETTERS

British monarchy; single currency.................... **Page 21**

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: Lotteries are the way of the world. But we should stop pretending that they have anything to do with risk, capitalism or privatisation..................... **Page 20**

Mary Ann Sieghart: Were my daughters in their late teens, I would certainly want them to see *Kids* ...... **Page 20**

OBITUARIES

Baronne Maire Hélène de Rothschild; Prebendary Newell Wallbank, Rector of St Bartholomew the Great; **Christopher Harmer,** wartime member of MI5 **Page 23**

BUSINESS

Jobs: Britain's largest computer company, ICL, reported a £188 million pre-tax loss and said it would cut up to 1,000 jobs................ **Page 25**

Departures: Two senior executives resigned from BAT and Sainsbury in moves that could trigger payouts of up to £1 million each .... **Page 25**

Lloyd's: Lloyd's dispatched letters to 34,000 members, with estimates of how much they will have to pay to settle their debts................ **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 47.9 points to close at 3710.3........................ **Page 28**

ARTS

Eyre of calm: Trevor Nunn, appointed to run the National Theatre, would do well to emulate the methods of his predecessor, says Richard Morrison .... **Page 17**

Crusoe twisted: Theatre de Complicite's latest production is *Foe*, an updating of *Robinson Crusoe* ..... **Page 17**

Turner revealed: The Tate Gallery has mounted an exhibition of Turner's *Liber Studiorum* .... **Page 19**

CAR 96

Winning Formula: Fans gear up for the new season

SPORT

Cricket: Dominic Cork was ruled out of England's World Cup quarter-final against Sri Lanka by a knee injury.......... **Page 48**

Football: The final Premiership games have again been delayed 24 hours for live television coverage. They will be played on May 5.. **Page 48**

Rugby union: England are unchanged against Ireland but there are doubts about Dean Richards. Wales have dropped Arwel Thomas against France.................. **Page 45**

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Jester: Who is the real Clive Anderson?. **Page 12**

Barking mad: Robert Crampton collars dog owners .... **Page 22**

WEEKEND

Counselling: Is your marriage rocky?... **Pages 1 & 3**

Gardening: The art of coarse mowing...... **Page 4**

Travel: Jeremy Paxman in Tuscany .... **Page 17**

10 15

Win: a trip to the premiere of *Toy Story* .... **Page 3**

Morning star: how Mark Little made it........ **Page 1[illegible]**

VISION

Cover story: Joan Collins's real-life drama, *Court TV*, Saturday, BBC2

Film: *Hannah and Her Sisters*, Sunday, BBC1

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,111

ABERLOUR *A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.*

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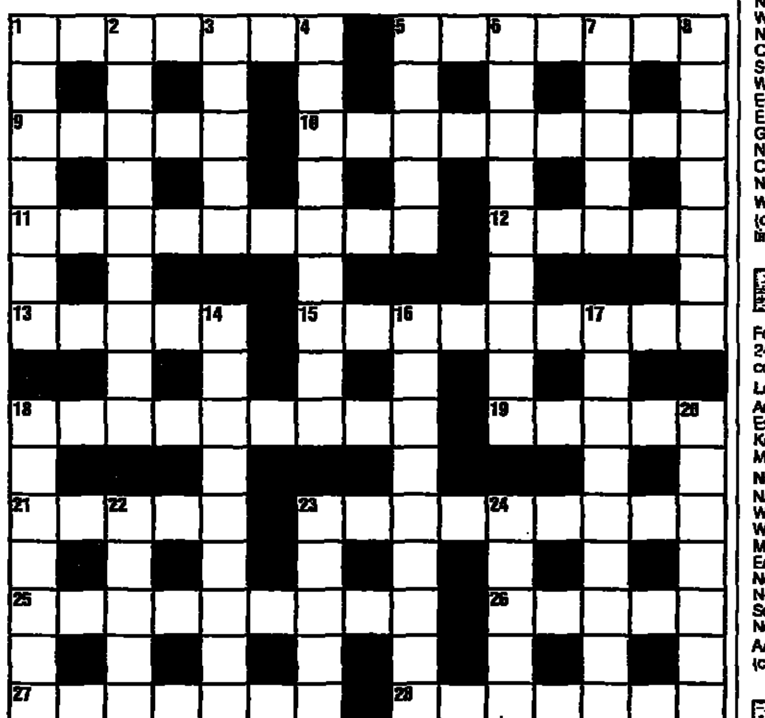


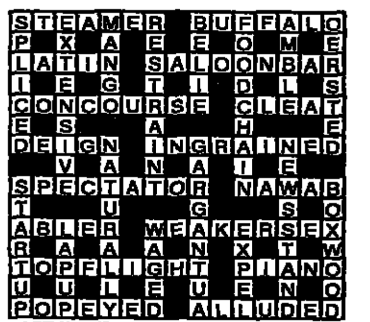
ACROSS

1 Relish boat getting in winning position (7).
5 Having defective hearing, one abandoned the blower (7).
9 In which three couples get together for sex (5).
10 Dog is sort of terrier? Vet's entry is not conclusive (9).
11 Medusa's a sweet person! (9).
12 A self-treatment for invalid (5).
13 Cause of ferment as yet unsettled (5).
15 Immediately at the scene of the action (2,3,4).
18 Tyre feels damaged, all-in (9).
19 Thus about to become indifferent to pain (5).
21 He told stories about river and ocean (5).
23 One beret I recollected as object of particular loathing (4,5).
25 Showing agreement? Not I, for one (9).
26 Within a month, wife cleaned up (5).
27 Remove outside page — it's empty (7).
28 Irregular mark for American's theme in school (7).

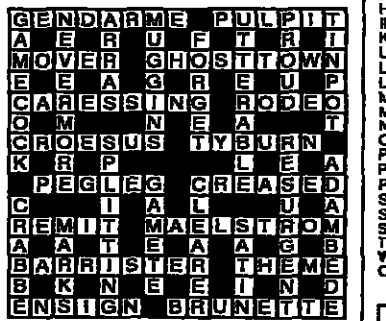
DOWN

1 Overcome with laughter and delight? Not he! (7).
2 Arouse it and it'll eat wildly (9).
3 King James, for example (5).
4 Standard ecclesiastical sin — meanness (9).
5 Fellow's suit (5).
6 Rigidity shown in second row with head (9).
7 Celebrate lifting of prize in America (5).
8 Most generous and, to some extent, popular gesture (7).
14 As divine female, I'm the one to call (9).
16 Island's legislative assembly in America (3,6).
17 Financially far-sighted, having expert see books (9).
18 Detectives, following young creature up, relaxed (7).
20 It runs fast and sharp, we hear (7).
22 Finishing as you began, you stop when it's dawn (5).
23 British people provide support (5).
24 Rocket launchers signal, finally, with sound of hooter (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,105



Solution to Puzzle No 20,110



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *G Taylor, Henfield, West Sussex; P Donovan, London; A and J Aston Smith, Oxford; D Lawrence, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire; A Rankin, Banchory, Kincardineshire.*

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Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 6.28 am
Sun sets: 5.56 pm
Moon sets 8.06 am
Moon rises 10.53 pm

Last quarter March 12

London 5.55 pm to 6.26 am
Bristol 6.05 pm to 6.35 am
Edinburgh 6.04 pm to 6.41 am
Manchester 6.02 pm to 6.35 am
Penzance 6.18 pm to 6.46 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 6.26 am
Sun sets: 5.57 pm
Moon sets 8.41 am
Moon rises —

Last quarter March 12

London 5.57 pm to 6.23 am
Bristol 6.07 pm to 6.33 am
Edinburgh 6.07 pm to 6.38 am
Manchester 6.04 pm to 6.33 am
Penzance 6.19 pm to 6.44 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4:07	6.9	4:33	6.9
Aberdeen	3:42	4.1	3:53	4.2
Avonmouth	9:30	12.9	9:48	12.8
Belfast	1:07	3.3	1:31	3.6
Cardiff	9:16	11.9	9:35	11.7
Devonport	8:10	5.2	8:24	5.1
Dover	0:55	6.7	1:09	6.6
Dublin (N Wall)	1:38	3.9	2:02	4.0
Falmouth	7:10	5.1	7:26	5.0
Greenock	2:47	3.2	2:59	3.5
Harwich	1:47	3.9	2:10	3.9
Holyhead	0:23	5.4	12:39	5.4
Hull (Albert D)	8:37	7.2	8:49	7.3
Ilfracombe	8:09	9.2	8:28	9.1
King's Lynn	8:34	6.7	8:53	6.7
Leith	4:57	5.3	5.17	5.3
Liverpool	1:22	9.2	1:41	9.3
Lowestoft	11:52	2.3	-	-
Margate	1:59	4.7	2:20	4.6
Milford Haven	8:26	6.8	8:46	6.6
Newquay	7:18	6.8	7:38	6.6
Oban	7:44	3.8	8:06	3.7
Penzance	6:45	5.4	7:02	5.2
Portland	9:04	1.9	9.19	1.8
Portsmouth	1:25	4.6	1:46	4.5
Shoreham	1:12	6.2	1:28	6.1
Southampton	0:48	4.4	1:04	4.4
Swansea	8:35	9.2	8:54	9.0
Tees	6:03	5.1	6:17	5.2
Walton-on-Naze	1:47	4.1	2:10	4.1

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Prestatyn, Clwyd, 9C (48F); lowest day max: Bingley, West Yorkshire, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Poole, Dorset, 0.77in; highest sunshine: Aviemore, Highland, 9.5hr.

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will become drier with bright spells as a band of rain moves north into Scotland. There will be a few showers, with the sunniest interludes likely in the south.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have showers. Outbreaks of showery rain and snow will spread north. The northwest and much of Northern Ireland will be brighter, with scattered showers. Rain will spread into west Scotland and Northern Ireland later.

☐ **London, SE England, Cent S, SW, NW England, Midlands, Channel Isles, Wales:** Mostly bright with sunny spells, occasional showers. Wind southeast light or moderate. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **E Anglia, E, Cent N, NE England, Lakes, IoM, Borders, SW Scotland:** Mostly dry, bright spells developing with some sunshine. Wind southeast light, occasionally moderate. Max 5C to 7C (41F to 45F).

☐ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Cent Highlands:** Outbreaks of rain or snow; snow mainly on hills. Wind southeast light, occasionally moderate. Max 5C to 7C (41F to 45F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** Dry start. Outbreaks of rain or snow later; snow mainly on hills. Wind southeast light or moderate. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** Bright spells, scattered showers. Rain later. Wind southeast fresh. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** Rather cloudy, showers of rain or sleet. Wind southeast fresh or strong, locally gale force. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Outlook:** Scattered showers, some wintry in east. Elsewhere dry with bright spells.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

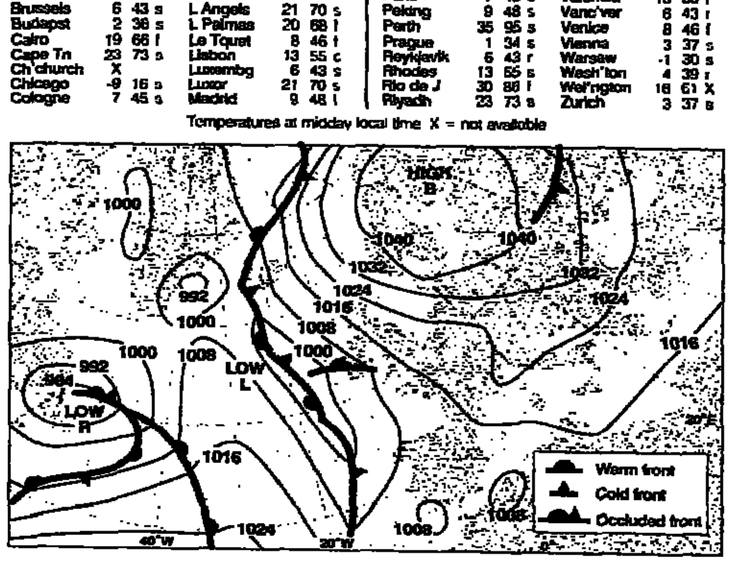
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	-	-	4	39	du	Leuchars	0.1	-	4	39	r
Anglesey	3.4	-	7	45	b	Littlehmptn	1.2	0.24	7	45	r
Aspatria	8.0	-	7	45	s	Liverpool	6.2	-	6	43	b
Aviemore	9.5	-	7	45	s	London	1.9	0.03	8	46	r
Belfast	3.0	-	6	43	b	Lowestoft	8.2	-	5	41	s
Birmingham	0.6	-	8	46	r	Manchester	4.8	-	7	45	s
Bognor R	-	0.32	6	43	r	Margate	4.8	-	7	45	b
Bournem'th	-	0.66	6	43	r	Minehead	0.2	0.26	3	37	sl
Bristol	-	0.12	6	43	r	Morecambe	6.8	-	7	45	s
Buxton	-	-	3	37	c	Newcastle	0.2	-	4	39	du
Cardiff	-	0.34	3	37	sl	Norwich	4.6	X	5	41	s
Clacton	8.1	-	5	41	s	Nottingham	X				
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	1.7	0.01	7	45	r
Colwyn Bay	1.0	-	7	45	c	Penzance	2.4	0.13	7	45	sn
Cromer	4.2	-	4	39	b	Plymouth	X				
Doncaster	X					Poole	1.6	0.77	6	43	sl
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	-	9	48	s
Eastbourne	0.5	0.01	7	45	r	Ross-o-wye	0.3	0.11	7	45	r
Edinburgh	0.3	-	5	41	r	Ryde	X				
Eskdalemuir	2.3	-	4	39	c	Salcombe	3.8	0.44	7	45	sh
Exmouth	0.5	0.47	6	43	h	Sandown	1.2	0.26	6	43	r
Falmouth	2.4	0.10	5	41	b	Sauntn Snd	2.1	-	8	46	c
Fishguard	1.2	0.05	5	41	r	Scarboro'	-	-	3	37	c
Folkestone	0.6	-	7	45	c	Shrewsbury	-	-	6	43	du
Glasgow	1.5	-	5	41	c	Skegness	3.6	-	4	39	b
Guernsey	3.0	0.13	7	45	sh	Southport	X				
Hastings	1.6	-	7	45	c	Southsea	-	0.36	5	41	r
Hayling I.	-	0.26	6	43	r	Stornoway	9.2	-	8	46	s
Herne Bay	3.2	-	8	46	b	Swanage	1.6	0.73	5	41	r
Hove	3.4	0.07	8	46	r	Teignmouth	0.4	0.67	6	43	sl
Hunstanton	8.3	-	6	43	s	Tenby	X				
Isle of Man	3.0	-	6	43	b	Tiree	4.4	-	7	45	sh
Jersey	4.0	0.09	8	46	h	Torquay	0.7	0.42	6	43	r
Kinloss	7.7	-	7	45	s	Tynemouth	-	-	4	39	du
Leeds	-	-	4	39	c	Ventnor	1.2	0.51	7	45	r
Lerwick	2.8	-	6	43	b	Weymouth	2.3	0.59	6	43	b

ABROAD

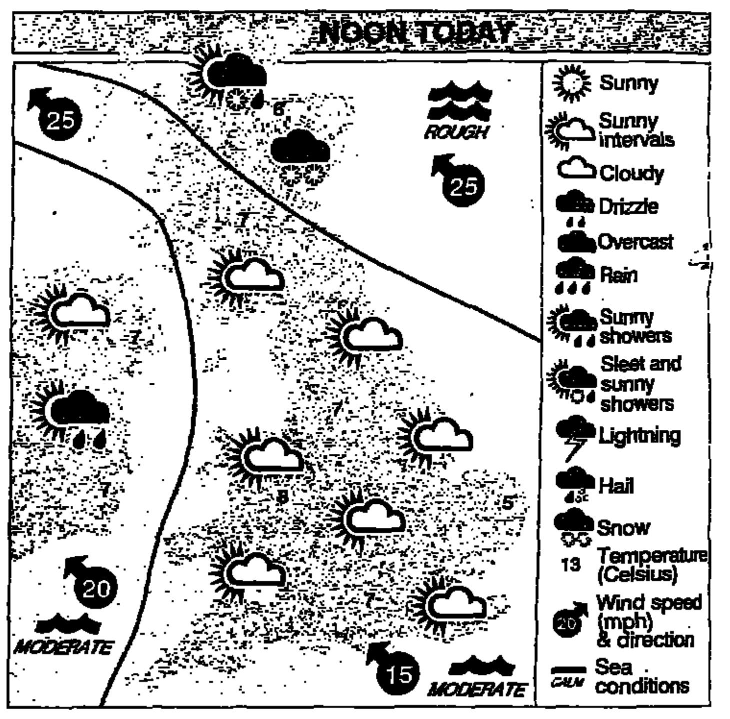
	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	12	54	r	Corfu	12	54	f	Majorca	15	59	f	Rome	12	54	f
Akrotiri	15	59	c	C'phagn	2	36	s	Malaga	13	55	r	S Fr'isco	14	57	c
Alex'dria	17	63	c	Dublin	5	41	c	Malta	13	55	r	S Paulo	23	73	r
Algiers	17	63	s	Dubrovnik	11	52	s	Melb'rne	15	59	c	Salzburg	5	41	s
Amst'dm	6	43	s	Faro	15	59	c	Mexico C	21	70	s	Santiago	29	84	s
Athens	8	46	c	Florence	11	52	s	Miami	29	84	f	Seoul	6	43	c
B Aires	30	86	f	Frankfurt	6	43	s	Milan	9	48	s	Sing'por	32	90	f
Bahrain	22	72	c	Funchal	13	55	r	Montreal	-10	14	X	St'kholm	5	41	s
Bangkok	32	90	s	Geneva	7	45	s	Moscow	-3	27	s	Strasb'rg	7	45	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	14	57	r	Munich	3	37	s	Sydney	19	66	c
Barcelona	11	52	r	Helsinki	2	36	s	N Delhi	27	81	s	Tangier	14	57	r
Beirut	13	55	f	Hong K	20	68	s	N York	1	34	r	Tel Aviv	14	57	s
Belgrade	4	39	s	Innsbrck	8	46	s	Nairobi	27	81	c	Tenerife	18	64	d
Berlin	4	39	s	Istanbul	4	39	r	Naples	14	57	f	Tokyo	6	43	d
Bermuda	20	68	s	Jeddah	26	79	s	Nice	13	55	s	Toronto	-13	9	s
Biarritz	15	59	s	Jo'burg	22	72	f	Oslo	-4	25	c	Tunis	13	55	f
Borde'x	10	50	c	Karachi	X			Paris	7	45	c	Valencia	13	55	f
Brussels	6	43	s	L Angels	21	70	s	Peking	9	48	s	Vanc'ver	6	43	r
Budapst	2	36	s	L Palmas	20	68	f	Perth	35	95	s	Venice	8	46	f
Cairo	19	66	f	Le Touqt	8	46	f	Prague	1	34	s	Vienna	3	37	s
Cape Tn	23	73	s	Lisbon	13	55	c	Reykjavik	6	43	r	Warsaw	-1	30	s
Ch'church	X			Luxembg	6	43	s	Rhodes	13	55	s	Wash'ton	4	39	r
Chicago	-9	16	s	Luxor	21	70	s	Rio de J	30	86	f	Wel'ngton	16	61	X
Cologne	7	45	s	Madrid	9	48	f	Riyadh	23	73	s	Zurich	3	37	s

Temperatures at midday local time X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: high B will remain fairly stationary and maintain its central pressure. Low R will push northeast and deepen. Low L will head north and fill

NOON TODAY



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QE2 AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express to Southampton on 8 May • five night QE2 cruise to Barcelona via Ibiza and Marseille • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,499

Concorde supersonic to Brussels on 21 June • two night QE2 cruise to Southampton via Le Havre (for Paris) • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,099

Concorde supersonic to Reykjavik on 8 July • nine night QE2 Land of the Midnight Sun cruise to the Norwegian Fjords • Orient-Express from Southampton to Victoria £2,499

MONACO GRAND PRIX

Eurostar or fly to Paris on 18 May • city tour • overnight at Nikko Hotel • Concorde supersonic to Nice • reserved seat for Monaco Grand Prix • return to Gatwick £1,299

ORIANA AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Concorde supersonic to Marrakesh on 29 July • six night Oriana cruise from Casablanca via Praia da Rocha, Lisbon and La Coruna • Orient-Express from Southampton £1,999

Orient-Express to Southampton on 31 Aug. • six night Oriana cruise to Monte Carlo via Gibraltar and Livorna (for Florence) • Concorde from Nice to Heathrow £1,999

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هكذا من الأصل

مكنز من الاهل

MELVYN MARCKUS 26

Our City Editor on Tiny Rowland's share sale

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Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

Double-barrelled tour de force for British tourism

SPORT 43-48

Cork's withdrawal robs England attack of sparkle

HIDDEN ASSETS AT THE BANK OF ENGLAND
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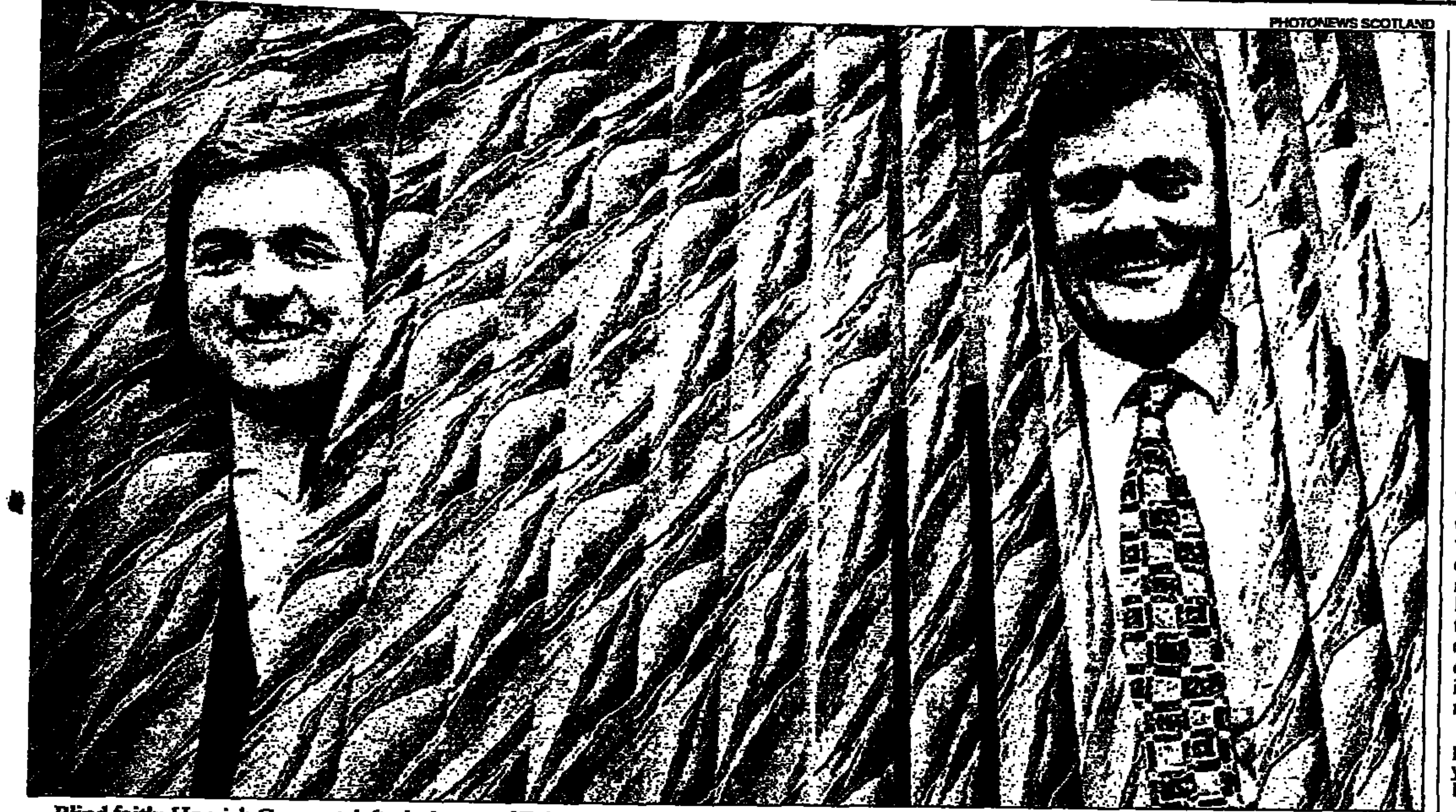
THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY MARCH 9 1996



PHOTONEWS SCOTLAND

Blind faith: Hamish Grossart, left, chairman of Eclipse Blinds, and Bill MacDonald, managing director, celebrate a 29 per cent advance in pre-tax profits, to £4.54 million, and a return to dividends with a final payout of 1p for the year to December 31, reflecting a strong recovery

Slump on Wall Street overshadows rate cut

By Janet Bush in London and Richard Thomson in New York

LONDON'S financial markets showed scarcely any reaction to the widely expected quarter-point cut in base rates, to 6 per cent, announced yesterday morning, but were then knocked sideways by a shock wave of selling on Wall Street.

The Bank of England announced the cut in base rates during its routine money market operations yesterday. The move had been expected after Thursday's monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank.

Then, Wall Street reacted dramatically to news that the US economy had generated 705,000 new non-agricultural jobs in February, the biggest increase in any month for 12 years. The unemployment rate dropped sharply from 5.8 per cent in January to 5.5 per cent in February, which economists said virtually ruled out a further cut in US interest rates. Many had expected another cut at the meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee on March 26.

Within minutes of the figures, the price of the 30-year benchmark Treasury bond slumped by three points. This triggered a collapse in the Dow Jones industrial average, which plunged by more than 100 points in the first 15 minutes of trading.

By early afternoon, the Dow had recovered a little to stand 72.25 lower, at 5,569.44. In London, the FT-SE 100 index closed down 47.9, at 3,710.3, having been 72 points lower at its worst levels of the day. London markets drew little comfort from yesterday's rate cut, given events in the US. European markets, too, were caught in the downdraught.

After the base rate change was announced, Mr Clarke said that he was confident that the cut, the third quarter-point cut since December, would not jeopardise the Government's inflation target. He noted that the economy is growing below trend, with activity abroad contributing to weakness, and that this should continue to exert downward pressure on inflation.

Several City analysts have been forecasting further cuts in base rates, perhaps to as low as 5 per cent. However, one of the helpful factors in the background had been the prospect of rates falling overseas, notably in Germany and America. Now, some are arguing that US rates have bottomed out.

The 705,000 rise in jobs was about twice what Wall Street economists had expected. It was a difficult figure to call because of blizzards and government shutdowns over the US budget impasse, which led to an alarmingly weak picture for jobs in December and January. Until yesterday's figures, which coincided with another blizzard engulfing New York, it was guesswork whether the weakness was fundamental or simply due to these one-off factors. The latter appears to have been the case.

William Sullivan, money market anaylst for Dean Witter, the broking firm, said: "This is outright panic." He concluded that the US economy is accelerating, that falling unemployment means a build-up of pay pressures and that this is likely to lead to higher inflation.

Others, however, pointed out that other indicators of the state of the US economy had not shown the strength seen in yesterday's labour market figures. The most recent report, from US purchasing managers, painted a weak picture, as did the Conference Board and various surveys of activity in the jobs market.

Lenders act, page 29
Anne Ashworth, page 31

ICL cuts 1,000 jobs in shake-up

By Sarah Cunningham

ICL, Britain's largest computer company, yesterday reported a £188 million pre-tax loss and said it will quit manufacturing and restructure as a systems and services company, cutting up to 1,000 jobs.

The company, 84 per cent owned by Japan's Fujitsu, said that revenues increased 17 per cent, to £3.1 billion, but £152 million of one-off charges relating to the restructuring, together with a £31 million operating loss caused by increased competition, pushed it into the red after a profit of £28 million a year earlier.

Fujitsu cuts its group net profit forecast from 90 billion yen to 65 billion yen, citing the ICL losses.

ICL plans a £200 million rights issue in June, underwritten by Fujitsu, which Northern Telecom, holder of the remaining 15 per cent of its stock, may also take up. Keith Todd, ICL's chief executive, said the group will return to profit in 1996.

Under the restructuring, ICL's personal computer production unit, which employs 2,000 people, will be demerged into a joint venture, with Fujitsu as major shareholder. It has yet to be named and the computers will continue to be branded Fujitsu/ICL.

ICL also plans to spin off D2D, its contract manufacturing division which employs 2,200, and is looking for a partner. ICL will use D2D, which is already a major supplier to other computer companies, as a subcontractor. ICL's staff will fall from 24,000 to about 19,000.

It aims to improve earnings by expanding its software and interactive services divisions. Fujitsu, which paid £743 million in 1990 for its stake in ICL, had expected to be able to float ICL by 1995. ICL now says flotation is its aim, but says that it is too early to predict when it will happen.

WEEKEND MONEY

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Anne Ashworth
on the National & Provincial small print

INVESTMENT

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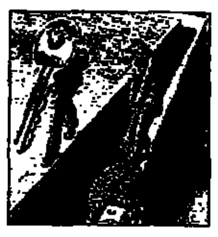
Index tracker funds. The Branson effect

HOUSING



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To rent or to buy? A comparison of the costs

LLOYD'S OF LONDON

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The price of leaving the past behind

PENSIONS GUIDE

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Part 2. Are you contributing enough?

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3710.3	(-47.9)
Yield	3.98%	
FT-SE A All share	1839.04	(-19.94)
Nikkei	20155.87	(+198.72)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5580.28	(-61.41)*
S&P Composite	644.63	(-9.02)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5⁵⁄₁₆%)
Long Bond	91¹³⁄₃₂*	(93¹⁵⁄₁₆)
Yield	6.67%*	(6.46%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6⁵⁄₃₂%	(6⁵⁄₃₂%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	104²⁷⁄₃₂	(106¹³⁄₁₆)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.5240*	(1.5300)
London:		
$	1.5241	(1.5305)
DM	2.2667	(2.2637)
FFr	7.7650	(7.7510)
SFr	1.8382	(1.8389)
Yen	161.44	(161.21)
£ Index	83.7	(83.7)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.4870*	(1.4764)
FFr	5.0920*	(5.0505)
SFr	1.2060*	(1.1995)
Yen	105.93*	(105.30)
$ Index	95.9	(95.6)
Tokyo close Yen 105.43		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (May)	$17.25	($17.45)
GOLD		
London close	$395.25	($394.05)

* denotes midday trading price

Granada deal

Granada yesterday clinched its first big disposal since the £3.9 billion acquisition of Forte in January when it agreed a £122 million deal to sell the White Hart chain of hotels to Regal. The number of Regal hotels will rise from 22 to 82.

Page 26

Debt estimates in the post for 34,000 Lloyd's names

LLOYD'S of London finally dispatched letters last night to 34,000 anxious names, providing them with estimates of how much they will have to pay to settle finally all their debts with the society.

Lloyd's, which has lost more than £8 billion in the past five years, is offering names a £2.8 billion settlement package in a bid to put its problems firmly in the past.

David Rowland, chairman of the society, said: "I think that everyone concerned with this society wants to bring this episode to an end."

The indicative statements provide estimates of a name's "finality" bill after deducting their share of the settlement offer.

For most names the finality bill will not exceed £100,000 — over and above their funds at Lloyd's. And for an estimated half of the 34,000 names the bill will not exceed their funds at Lloyd's, which are the assets held to support a name's underwriting.

Rowland: 'end of an episode'

The statements are only estimates and the final figures are due at the end of May. However, for 95 per cent of names the variation between the two bills will be limited to £15,000. To help those names unable to pay their bills, Lloyd's has set aside about £150 million, called Tranche 4. To apply for a share names have to provide details of their financial position.

There are no firm rules on what a name's financial position needs to be to qualify but a Lloyd's spokesman said yesterday: "The arrangements will be an improvement on Hardship (the market's former bankruptcy scheme)."

Names can also pay their bills in instalments and, for those who risk losing their homes, Lloyd's is trying to put together a special mortgage facility.

Names will vote on whether to accept the £2.8 billion offer, based on the final statements, at the annual meeting of Lloyd's on July 15.

Weekend money, page 38

Halifax ends Warburg role in float

THE Halifax Building Society has abruptly replaced SBC Warburg as corporate finance adviser to its £9 billion stock market flotation (Anne Ashworth writes). Deutsche Morgan Grenfell was named yesterday as the new adviser.

Behind the society's move lay the departure of two key individuals working on the Halifax conversion. Anthony Brookes went to BZW, and Derek Higgs left for the Prudential. The society also cited a "potential conflict of interest".

David Gilchrist, of the Halifax, said the society started to become concerned about its relationship with SBC Warburg several months ago. "The conversion will be a long-running and complex transaction. We want ... a commitment to continuity."

The society added that there would be no delay in the float scheduled for summer 1997.

Resigned to the prospect of £1m

By Jon Ashworth

TWO senior UK executives resigned yesterday in moves that could trigger payouts of up to £1 million each. George Greener quit abruptly as head of BAT Industries financial services operations, which include Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star, while David Quarmby stepped down as joint managing director of J Sainsbury, the latest of several management changes at the supermarket group.

Both men were on two-year rolling contracts and could win compensation of up to £1 million each, further stoking criticism of levels of boardroom pay. Mr Greener, who joined BAT five years ago after 20 years with Mars, the confectionery group, earned £852,885 in salary, bonuses and pension contributions in 1994, the latest figures available.

BAT said that Mr Greener was resigning as chief executive of BAT UK Financial Services and as chairman of Allied Dunbar, Eagle Star and Threadneedle Asset Management "by mutual consent". The move comes two days after BAT announced a sweeping review of its UK financial services operations.

The company insisted the parting was amicable, in spite of talk of a personality clash between Mr Greener and Martin Broughton, chief executive of BAT. Compensation has yet to be agreed but the company expects to settle for less than the two-year term of Mr Greener's contract. Mr Greener is replaced by Sandy Leitch, Allied Dunbar's chief executive.

Mr Quarmby, 54, leaves Sainsbury's at the end of next month. He earned £450,000 last year, including benefits and pension contributions. David Sainsbury, chairman, accepted his resignation "with regret", adding: "I respect his wish to pursue other interests." Mr Quarmby's decision comes soon after a series of board changes, in which he was given the lesser role of managing director of group services and business development at the supermarket group.

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Housing slide hits Hambro

By Marianne Curphey

THE cost of assimilating 300 extra branches into its estate agency chain caused losses at Hambro Countrywide to deepen to £3.89 million (£3.86 million loss) for the year to December 31.

Harry Hill, managing director, admitted he had not expected a further slide in the housing market when his firm bought the estate agency arm of the Nationwide Building Society for £1 in October 1994.

However, after a first-half loss of £5.82 million, Hambro made a pre-tax profit of £1.93 million in the six months to December. While Inland Revenue figures show house sales fell by 11 per cent, Mr Hill said Countrywide suffered a fall of only 1.8 per cent.

The estate agency, which has 740 offices, the largest chain in the UK, reported a 25 per cent increase in newly agreed house sales in January and February, compared with the same period last year. Countrywide arranged 21,662 mortgages worth £969 million.

The loss per share increased to 2.16p from 1.83p and no dividend will be paid (1994: 0.05p). Total turnover increased to £151 million (£106 million). The estate agency division caused the greatest loss at £21 million (£6 million loss).

Tempus, page 28
Weekend Money, pages 29 and 34

Granada agrees to sell White Hart hotels to Regal

By Alasdair Murray

GRANADA yesterday clinched its first big disposal since the £3.9 billion acquisition of Forte in January when it agreed a £122 million deal to sell the White Hart chain of hotels to Regal.

The acquisition will increase the hotels under Regal's control from 22 to 82. Regal had provisionally agreed the purchase of the chain with Forte, in a cash and shares deal, before the Granada takeover. The deal with Granada is understood to be all cash and excludes seven hotels in the original package.

Regal will use a mixture of debt and equity to fund the purchase and hoped to make an announcement "reasonably quickly" to shareholders on the structure of the deal's financing. A rights issue is likely to double capitalisation to £80 million, but Regal said it had the support of its big shareholders and bankers to proceed. Regal shares were suspended at 44p after the earlier Forte agreement. Granada preserves an opt-out clause in the agreement should Regal run into financing problems.

Charles Vere Nicoll, chief executive, said that the company, which has doubled in size each year since it was founded three years ago, would now concentrate on absorbing the new hotels. He said: "We are going to have to take stock and I will not proceed with more growth until the results prove the chain has been absorbed."

Granada is keen to sell a number of assets acquired in the Forte takeover, including the Meridien and Exclusive hotel chains and the 68 per cent stake in the Savoy.

Regal also unveiled its full-year results yesterday with profits rising 400 per cent to £2.9 million on turnover up 230 per cent at £18.1 million. The company announced its first ever dividend of 0.5p, to be paid on June 1.

☐ CDL, the Hong Kong hotel company, is aiming next month to float about 40 per cent of Millennium & Copthorne, its UK subsidiary, in London CDL is hoping to raise about £150 million from the float, which will value the chain at £350 million. About £100 million of the proceeds will be used to reduce Millennium's debt. Millennium owns 23 business hotels in Europe and America, including the Gloucester, Bailey's and Chelsea hotels in London, and has a 42 per cent stake in the Plaza Hotel, New York.

Tempus, page 28

Ennemix rejects bid as opportunistic

By Alasdair Murray

ENNEMIX yesterday hit back at the £5.8 million takeover offer from Redland, the building materials company, describing the offer as "opportunistic and derisory".

The troubled aggregrates company urged its shareholders to reject the 32p a share bid, which it claimed was at a 37.5 per cent discount to its revised net asset value of 50p a share. Ennemix also revealed that gearing has been reduced, to 37.5 per cent, and wage costs cut, including a drop in boardroom salaries.

Redland bought a 30 per cent stake in Ennemix in December and made an agreement with the seller, Nash Sells, the venture capital group, not to raise its bid above 35p for at least six months. The shares closed yesterday unchanged at 35p.

The company also unveiled a full-year loss of £585,000.

Two rail support firms sold

Two more companies that maintain the rail network were yesterday sold to two joint ventures.

A link between GEC Alsthom and Tarmac bought the largest, covering the central area of the country, for £18.8 million while a joint venture between Amey and the management of the western division at Swindon bought that area's maintenance company for £15 million.

Water talks

Speculation continued in the City yesterday that a US company, believed to be California Water Services, is to move on South West Water early next week. Meanwhile Wessex Water, which announced a proposed bid for South West, and the target company remained locked in talks with their merchant banks.

Full throttle

Malaya Group, the motor distributor, raised full-year pre-tax profits 283 per cent to £2.09 million (£617,000) in the year to December 31. Turnover advanced to £315 million (£170 million). The final dividend of 0.33p, payable May 21, gives a total of 0.66p (0.4p) for the year, from earnings of 0.96p (0.62p) a share.

Litho ahead

Litho, the printing industry supplier, raised pre-tax profits 24 per cent to £6.6 million in the year to December 31. Turnover rose 5 per cent to £65 million. The total dividend rises 11 per cent to 7.6p with a final divid-end of 4.64p payable on May 30.

Bid rumours swirl as Tiny sells out

It was on Thursday that *The Times* let it be known that Tiny Rowland, someone who requires little introduction, had decided to sell a near 6 per cent share stake in Lonrho, the multinational conglomerate he created, to Dieter Bock, the company's chief executive. Rowland's share sale relates to a "put" and "call" arrangement struck in December 1992, when Mr Bock joined Lonrho to work alongside Rowland as joint chief executive.

I well recall interviewing Rowland and Bock at the onset of their corporate honeymoon.

MM: How will the joint roles work? How do you envisage dividing responsibilities?

Rowland: There will not be any clear cut division of responsibilities. Think of us as indivisible.

Bock: It is important that we have a constant dialogue in order to reach decisions together. We have identical interests, the interests of the company. I cannot see the possibility of any conflict of interest between us.

Since then, much water has passed and many quotations. Niceties gave way to not so niceties. It was Rowland (who else?) who felt compelled to declare, courtesy of *The Sunday Times:* "I am a fully paid-up member of this country's Inland Revenue club. I have always paid my tax in this country. Mr Bock, however, doesn't own a single asset in his own name, except his bicycle — and perhaps his wife." Many businessmen, after telephone conversations with scribes, have a habit of telephoning back to emphasise that certain statements are *off* the record. Rowland, uniquely, has a habit of telephoning back to emphasise that remarks, such as the above, are *on* the record.

Bock, Lonrho's largest shareholder, with an 18.6 per cent stake acquired at an average price of 93p, waved in a bevy of non-executive directors (anathema to Rowland) and launched coups. First against Rowland's closest boardroom colleagues, such as René Leclézio, Robert Dunlop and Paul Spicer (dubbed the "pensioners") then against Rowland. The first, in the autumn of 1994, failed: the second left Rowland with the prospect of jetting between assets as president and the third brought about his unceremonious dismissal last March.

In the event, Rowland has lost little time in exercising his "put" on Bock. Although the option arrangement dates back to 1992, it did not come into play until December 9, 1995. As of then, either party could enforce a share sale over a period of 12 months. Official confirmation came by way of a brief statement that Yeoman Investments (Rowland's vehicle) had informed

MELVYN MARCKUS

◆

Laerstate BV (Bock's Netherlands registered vehicle) on Tuesday of its intentions to sell 45.5 million shares representing 5.85 per cent of the equity. The price has been struck at 200.36p, based on recent market averages.

Indications from the Lonrho camp are that Bock has the finance in place to complete the transaction, possibly next week. It should be borne in mind that Bock and Rowland harbour deep suspicions over the calibre of each other's finances. Lonrho's directors, ever fearful that Tiny's hand might rise and smite their "normalisation" process in some vengeful and extraordinary way, are reputed to be delighted: the theory being that Rowland, minus 5.85 per cent in exchange for £91 million, casts a shorter shadow than before.

Rowland, for his part, claims that the "sex" has gone out of Lonrho and has timed his sale to illustrate his implacable opposition to the company's proposed merger of its platinum interests with Gencor's Impala Platinum. Rowland insists that the flotation of Lonrho's platinum operations would have yielded greater value. Such views received scant support at last week's AGM, where Rowland, through a spokesman, alleged that Bock did not spend sufficient time on Lonrho's business. Sir John Leahy, the former ambassador to South Africa, who now chairs Lonrho, pointed out that since Mr Bock became Lonrho's chief executive, profits had increased from £59 million to £161 million, while the share price had risen from 75p to 192½p.

Bock's shareholding in Lonrho will rise to close on 25 per cent but the message is that no placing of Rowland's stake is imminent. Rowland is said to be keeping a watchful eye on Sir Rocco Forte's return to the hotel scene, but in reality harbours an interest in the Savoy's establishments. As he recently put it: "I wouldn't require a partner to purchase the Savoy."

James Capel, which happens to be Lonrho's stockbroker, opined in January that the proposed demerger "constitutes an imaginative step towards crystallising and releasing the underlying value in Lonrho shares". According to Capel, the "aggregate underlying value" of Lonrho's paper is in the region of 247p. Lonrho's quote, currently 191p, recently touched 217½p as speculation mounted that, come a demerger, Lonrho Mining could well attract a full-scale takeover bid from the likes of Anglo-American or Gencor. What should not be ruled out is the likelihood of offers for Lonrho's mining operations *before* the much heralded demerger. Rowland, incidentally, has retained some 3 million shares.

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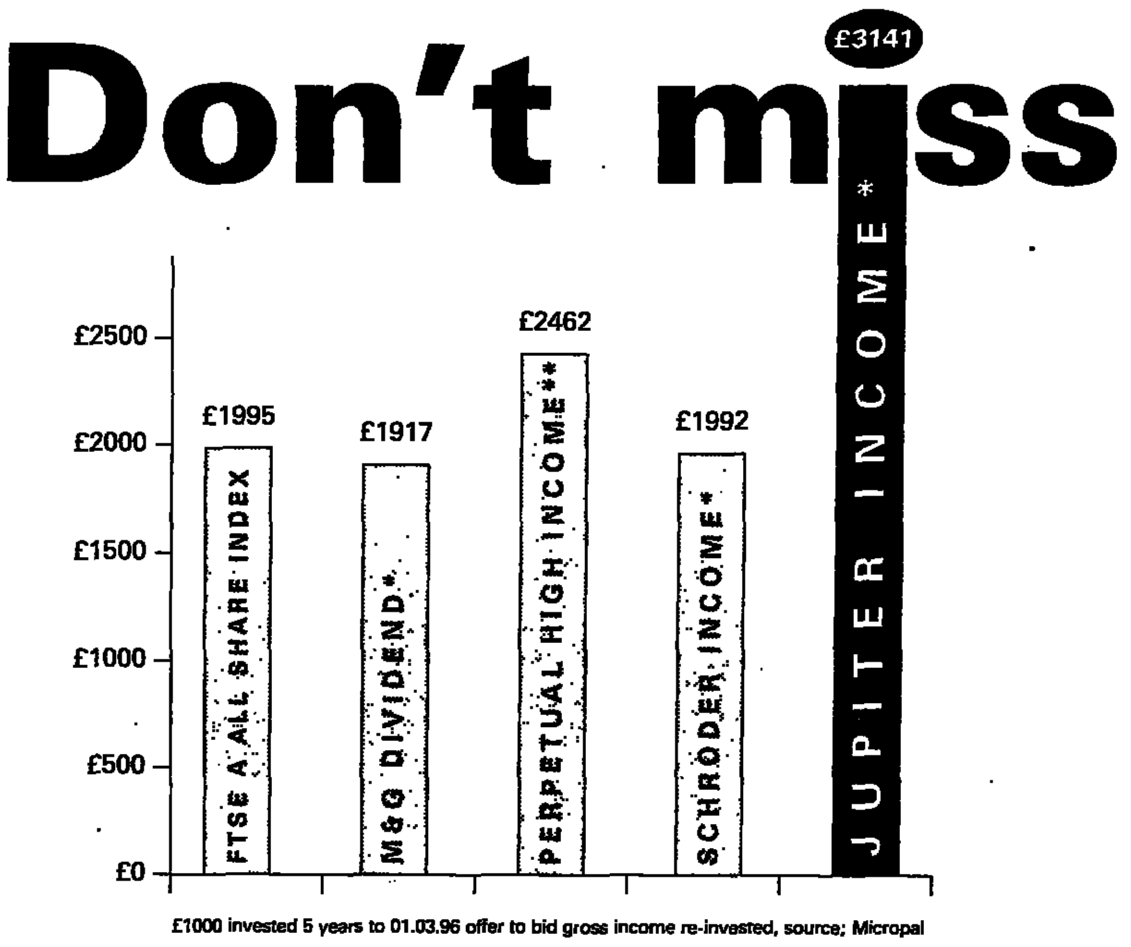

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Denmark Kr	9.36	8.56
Finland Mkk	7.60	6.95
France Fr	8.16	7.51
Germany Dm	2.42	2.21
Greece Dr	390.00	365.00
Hong Kong $	12.47	11.47
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1300	4.4800
Italy Lira	2493.00	2338.00
Japan Yen	175.50	159.50
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.687	2.457
New Zealand $	2.41	2.19
Norway Kr	10.43	9.63
Portugal Esc	246.00	227.50
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Spain Pta	197.50	184.50
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£2,000 – £24,999	2.500	1.875
£500 – £1,999	2.125	1.594
£0 – £499	2.125	1.594
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£250,000 +	4.750	3.563
£100,000 – £249,999	4.625	3.469
£25,000 – £99,999	4.375	3.281
£10,000 – £24,999	3.875	2.906
£2,000 – £9,999	3.125	2.344
CLIENT'S PREMIUM ACCOUNT		
£1 million +	4.125	3.094
£250,000 – £999,999	4.000	3.000
£100,000 – £249,999	3.875	2.906
£25,000 – £99,999	3.500	2.625
£10,000 – £24,999	3.250	2.438
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£25,000 +	2.000	1.500
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£5,000 – £9,999	1.000	0.750
£0 – £4,999	0.750	0.563
SEVEN DAY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT. (A seven days' notice account.) No minimum balance. Interest paid half-yearly.	0.500	0.375

† *GROSS RATE is the contractual rate of interest payable not taking account of the deduction of income tax at the basic rate.*

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: ADELE BISS

Home and away life of ambassador for tourism

Marianne Curphey meets the woman whose job is to sell the British holiday industry to the Treasury and abroad

ADELE BISS has spent a week in Blackpool, a long weekend in the Lake District, a week at Center Parcs, seven days on the Isle of Skye and a week on the north coast of Devon — all in the name of work.

But then, as Britain's ambassador for tourism in her role as chairwoman of both the English Tourist Board and the British Tourist Authority, taking a British holiday is part of the job. She even has a signed certificate on her wall proclaiming she has spent a night at a caravan park. She is very proud of it.

"It was my first time and I enjoyed it so much I'd do it again," she says. It is a far cry from the chalet in Switzerland she part-owns and still visits with her husband and 12-year-old son.

Her office is in a tower block in the centre of Hammersmith in west London, and a long way from the picture postcard images of the capital that have so successfully lured foreign tourists to our shores.

Last Wednesday Ms Biss and Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of State for National Heritage, met at Madame Tussaud's — one of the UK's most popular fee-charging tourist attractions — to brief travel journalists on the success of the BTA's marketing campaign.

In 1995 overseas visitors to Britain totalled 23.6 million, a rise of 12 per cent on the previous record of 21 million set in 1994. Between them they spent £11.7 billion.

Yesterday she flew back from Madrid after meeting the travel trade at celebrations to mark 30 years of a BTA presence in Spain. Earlier in the week she had met the Museums and Galleries Commission to discuss ways of using British culture to lure foreign visitors to our shores. Over the coming weeks she will be helping the industry to prepare for the all-important start to the holiday season over the Easter weekend.

Her role as chairwoman of the BTA and ETB involves two to three days' work every week, for which she is paid £41,000, although meetings and travel inevitably take up more of her time. She was appointed joint chairman of the ETB and BTA in 1994 after the Department of National Heritage had spent several months searching for a replacement for Bill Davis.

When not discussing the future of British tourism and haranguing Treasury ministers to take her industry seriously, she pursues her other interests as a governor of Middlesex University, a non-executive director of Harry Ramsden's (the Yorkshire fish and chip emporium), and a non-executive director of European Passenger Services.

One subject that she refuses to discuss is the impact of the recent IRA bombs on British tourism, fearing that her comments might be misinterpreted. "I did five press interviews in Madrid and not a single journalist asked about it," she says. "I don't think it is helpful to discuss it."

> ❛ I am the only person I know who sightsees and stays in lovely places as part of my job ❜

The BTA's official line on the bombings is that they have made very little difference to bookings or inquiries to overseas offices. Incoming tour operators tell a different story, however. Richard Cail, operations director of JAC Travel, one of the UK's biggest incoming tour operators, said that immediately after the Docklands bomb a number of American holiday groups cancelled or asked to be transferred out of London to regional cities.

She is also reluctant to talk about herself, although she lets slip that she has recently learnt to ride a bicycle, which will be useful, no doubt, for pedalling through English country lanes. At 51 she spends more than an hour every Saturday morning putting herself through a punishing aerobics class, and has a swimming lesson once a week.

PETER TREVNOR

Travel agent: Adele Biss, whose marketing campaigns seek to portray the best of Britain

The view from her office on the tenth floor is of the Hammersmith flyover and Wormwood Scrubs prison. Roadworks rumble away below while she expounds the virtues of new technology and fiddles with her hair as the photographer snaps away.

"I've been learning to use the word processor, but I had to teach myself to type first," she says. "So I was sitting with the instruction tape on full volume at 8.30am tapping in JJJ JDJ DJD."

This was before she chaired a meeting of tourist board heads and met me for coffee. Her office is small, neat and ordered, like herself. She admits that being thrust into the limelight as the public image of tourism in Britain two-and-a-half years ago was something of a shock.

"For the first photocall on the day I became chairman, the Department of National Heritage wanted to invite a few journalists for a briefing at the secretary of state's office. I thought that would be a bit dull, and I wanted to convey the fun of tourism and suggested a photoshoot on a red London bus. In the end, it was decided I should pose in front of the Horse Guards and I remember standing there in front of a wall of cameras with the photographers shouting: 'Just a little closer to the horse, please, Ms Biss'. There were lots of tourists taking pictures as well — they must have thought I was a celebrity. But I was edging closer and closer to the horse's teeth, and I am rather scared of horses."

She escaped unscathed and spent the rest of her first year travelling around Britain sampling domestic tourism and using half-term holidays with her son to experience the traditional seaside delights of Blackpool. She claims that when she travels she is rarely off-duty and takes every opportunity to chat to fellow tourists: "I am the only person I know who goes sightseeing and staying in lovely places as part of my job, and I like to know what other people think about the place."

On one such occasion she joined, uninvited, a party of American tourists on London Bridge, and was forced to identify herself after the tour guide accused her of trying to tag along for free.

Ms Biss never tires of extolling the economic advantages of tourism, which is now worth £36 billion to the UK economy, generating about £100 million in revenues every day, and 1.5 million jobs.

Nevertheless, she has found it difficult to convince the Treasury and opinion-formers that tourism is as important an industry as financial services or motor manufacturing.

Over the past five years grant-in-aid for the ETB has been cut and half its 122 staff have gone. Fewer have been cut from the BTA, which is responsible for selling Britain to the overseas market.

In spite of these setbacks she has initiated a series of marketing campaigns to try to make the best of Britain. One of the first, the Seaside campaign, aimed to persuade Britons to take a break to rediscover the beauty of the coastline around their island.

The London Arts Season and the Festival of Arts and Culture were established to promote the capital and the regions during the off-season months of January, February and March, and to help to swell attendances at concert halls, theatres, museums and art galleries at a time when business is traditionally at its slackest.

As part of her struggle to convince the Government of the value of tourism, she sent a complete set of guidebooks and accommodation listings to every member of the Cabinet last year, and will do so again this spring. She claims to have converted a number of them to the joys of the British holiday, although Virginia Bottomley has always spent family holidays on the Isle of Wight.

Ms Biss believes that the real challenge is to persuade those Britons who abandoned traditional "bucket-and-spade" seaside holidays in the 1970s when air fares became cheaper and there was "a great rush to the Costas".

Her first job was in tourism, as a courier taking coach parties on a tour of seven cities in ten days. After studying economics at University College London, she became one of the first women to join Unilever's graduate trainee scheme. Even now, she uses the skills she learnt there. "It was the university of marketing," Ms Biss says. "Now, whenever I am trying to get a message across, I go through the mental checklist of the steps that I need to take."

> ❛ In five press interviews IRA bombs weren't mentioned. It's not helpful to discuss it ❜

From there, she joined the holiday company that later became Thomson Travel, now the UK's biggest tour operator, for seven years. After a brief spell with an advertising agency, she set up Biss Lancaster, the successful public relations company, with Graham Lancaster, in 1978. Ms Biss sold her stake in the company seven years later but stayed on for another four years as a consultant. When she left, it employed 90 people and had represented Woolworths during its defence against the bid from Dixons, and later represented Dixons when it was subject to a hostile bid from Kingfisher.

"It was nice to be on the winning side on both occasions," she said.

Her contract comes up for renewal in May and she says that it would be "a privilege" to be kept on for a further three years. She expects to learn of the decision within weeks.

HIDDEN ASSETS

Museum of money in mint condition at Bank

Joanna Pitman finds a gem of history in Old Lady's vaults

In the three hundred years of her life, the Old Lady has thrown little away. The prudence of our national bankers over the generations has meant that today the Bank of England museum has managed to turn itself, particularly since its extension and refurbishment in 1988, into a place of unexpected magnificence.

"Most bank museums are simply full of coins with dozens of bank notes pasted all over the walls — wonderful for numismatists and trainspotters but less rewarding for the general interest visitor," said John Keyworth, the curator. "The Bank of England museum has a surprising breadth to its collection. Overall, it offers a remarkable social history of the last 300 years."

Architectural historians will be interested in the principal feature of the museum, a reproduction of the original Bank Stock Office. This was designed by Sir John Soane in 1793, a hall of austere simplicity, reminiscent of the interior of a Byzantine church. Using records kept at the Soane's Museum, the Bank of England was able to build a true reproduction down to the original dimensions and to recreate the lunette windows and plasterwork according to the original details.

Being a single-storey construction, however, Soane's building was demolished in the 1920s, leaving ony the massive outer walls, and replaced by a larger seven-storey building offering more office space. This was designed by Sir Herbert Baker, an associate of Lutyens during his time in New Delhi, and was completed just before the outbreak of war in 1939. Baker's original Rotunda is the second major architectural feature of the museum, a classical design incorporating caryatids and columns that were part of Soane's earlier designs.

Housed in these two gracious halls, the collection itself is all the more impressive. Being a bank museum, there are of course a large number of coins and bank notes as well as a history of their design and production over the years. And the unrivalled collection of forgeries makes a most enticing show and is a wry example of curatorial economy.

What had for centuries been shamefully confined to the deepest of the bank's vaults is now back out on display, making conned banking clerks of past generations blush, or possibly chuckle, from their graves.

Hung on the walls of the museum are several oils, including a copy of the marvellous *Dividend Day* by George Elgar Hicks exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1859 and a relatively recent addition, *The Court of Directors in session*, by Boyd and Evans.

There are also a number of architectural drawings of the Bank's various designs and extensions, topographical views of London and a fine collection of photographs dating back to 1850. The Bank has an extensive collection of silver, many of the pieces dating from 1694, the year of the Bank's foundation and much of which is still in use for official functions. Perhaps the most important piece is a tankard presented to the first Governor, Sir John Houblon, in 1696 "in token of his great ability, industry and strict uprightness at a time of extreme difficulty".

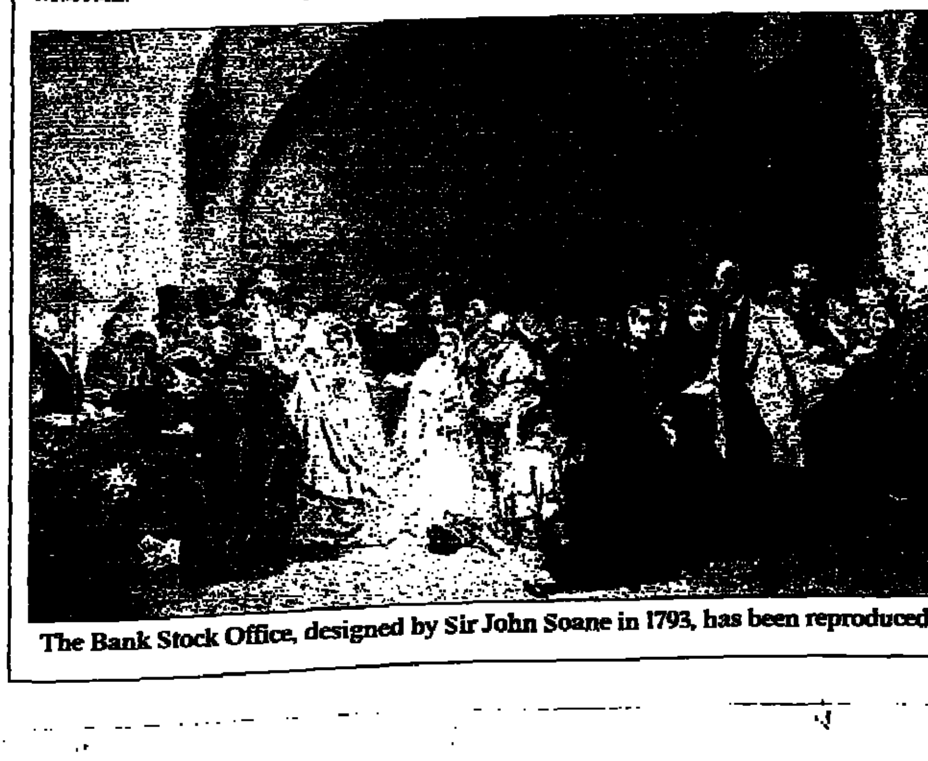
For almost 200 years nothing was heard of this tankard until it was purchased in London by an American silversmith. Eventually in 1924, through the intervention of Benjamin Strong, then Governor of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, it was returned to the Bank.

New silver is constantly being commissioned, a recent example being the triangular salver that commemorates the Bank's 250 years in Threadneedle Street, 1734-1984. The engraving derives from an 18th-century perspective view of the Bank's new building by George Sampson, the architect.

The gold in the Bank's vaults belongs to Governments, British and foreign, and other customers. Only gold that the Bank owns is on display, among it Roman gold bars dating from AD 375 and bearing the mark of the mint at Sirmium in modern-day Bosnia.

The museum also displays archaeological finds excavated during rebuilding in 1925-39, along with a collection of statuary, and an eclectic range of artefacts including weapons and firearms once used to defend the Bank.

With two or three special exhibitions a year, no admission fee and an Aladdin's Cave of a collection that hits just the right mercenary nerve in us, it is no wonder that the Old Lady's museum attracts more than 100,000 visitors a year.



The Bank Stock Office, designed by Sir John Soane in 1793, has been reproduced

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*Source: Micropal. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. All statements are correct as at 22.01.96. Full written details are available on request.
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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Rate cut outlook sends shares into free-fall

Mike Darrington, left, with David Park, centre, and Malcolm Simpson, of Greggs, whose share dipped 5p

SHARE prices and government bonds fell sharply on both sides of the Atlantic as investors reached the conclusion that we have seen the last of the interest rates cuts for the time being.

A strong set of US employment numbers triggered the shakeout, indicating that the American economy may be gathering pace. US Treasury bonds led the way down and within minutes the Dow Jones average was nursing a fall of 114 points.

The effect on the London market was equally dramatic. Just before publication of the employment numbers at 1.30pm, the FT-SE 100 index had been sporting a rise of about three points as investors continued to reflect on the latest quarter-point cut in base rates. An hour later it had plunged more than 60 points and, at its worst, was down 72 points. It managed to claw back some of the losses to close down 47.9 points at 3,710.3, a fall on the week of 42.4.

Selling pressure was described as light and this was reflected in the total number of shares changing hands, 886 million. It was hardly the sort of response that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, might have expected to his latest cut in rates.

Even so, market reaction to the quarter-point reduction had been subdued. Dealers said much of it was already in the price and felt it unlikely that the move would direct any fresh funds back from bank accounts.

Leading shares bore the brunt of the markdown. Of the top 100 companies, only three closed up on the day: **RTZ**, up 4p at 922p, **SmithKline Beecham**, 4p better at 721p, and **GKN**, a rise of 16p to 893p as brokers took in Thursday's better than expected profits news. It was supported by some bullish comments by Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, and a profits upgrading by BZW.

Elsewhere among the leaders, **National Grid** on 195p and Pilkington on 212p were unmoved. The worst falls were seen in **Guardian Royal Exchange**, 10p to 239p, **Sun Alliance**, 12p to 380p, **Cadbury Schweppes**, 16p to 519p, **HSBC**, 30p to £10.47, **Courtaulds**, 12p to 424p, and **Wolseley**, 13p to 472p.

On the bid front, **South West Water** rose a further 8p to 616p, stretching the rise on the week to 118p after the move by Wessex Water, its neighbour, which wants to bid later this year. Keith Court, chairman of South West, said the company would consider any bid reflecting the value of its businesses. But he was scathing about Wessex: "The proposals contain no details, or commitments, only claims and promises. Wessex rushed out an announcement in the middle of the night which was unsolicited and unwelcome".

Wessex ended the session up 3p at 327p. Brokers reported continued speculative support for some of the other water companies. **Bristol Water** rose 15p to £12.75, **Mid Kent** 3p to 433p, and **Yorkshire Water** 3p to 676p.

The big drug companies enjoyed an early mark-up as investors continued to absorb details of this week's £41 billion merger between Sandoz and Ciba-Geigy and the impact it will have on British drug companies. Glaxo Wellcome and Zeneca both made early headway in the belief that a merger might be on the cards at some stage. But this was the signal for profit-takers to move in on the back of recent trading news from both companies. **Zeneca** ended 8p cheaper at £13.69 on turnover of more than 4.3 million, while **Glaxo Wellcome** eased 2p to 844p, after briefly touching 861½p.

British Biotech, which unveiled third-quarter losses earlier this week, jumped another 25p to a new all-time high of £22.80. The group gave an upbeat statement about prospects.

BET slipped 2½p to 194½p ahead of publication of its defence document on Monday. It has rejected an aggressive £1.8 billion bid from Rentokil, rival services specialist, and turned down talks with Rentokil's Clive Thompson about possible disposals. **Rentokil**, which is currently capitalised at £3.5 billion, finished 5p lower at 348p.

The independent television broadcasters suffered one of their rare setbacks after learning of government proposals for a limit on the funds they receive from Channel 4, a bone of contention with Channel 4 executives for a number of years, both channels effectively competing with one another. **Border Television** lost 11p to 276p, **HTV Group** 19p to 365p, **Scottish Television** 20p to 638p, **Ulster TV** 33p £12.95 and **Yorkshire TV** 9p to £10.04.

Greggs, the confectioner and retailer, whose managing director is Mike Darrington, has reported a record pre-tax profit of £13.1 million for the year to December 30, up 8.6 per cent on the previous 12 months. Earnings per share have risen 11.3 per cent to 79p and the dividend rises 13 per cent to 26p per share. The share ended down 5p at £13.35.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The expected cut in base rates had already been built into the market by the time the Bank of England sanctioned the move during the morning. Events after that proved to be something of an anti-climax, with the market vulnerable when the US non-farm payroll numbers were published around 1.30pm. Prices fell sharply, with brokers reporting a flattening-out of the yield curve and those at the longer end suffering the worst falls. Attempts at a rally from the lower levels proved futile.

Heavy selling of the future led the rest of the market lower. The June series of the Long Gilt touched £104¹⁵⁄₃₂, before ending £1³¹⁄₃₂ down at £104²⁷⁄₃₂ in heavy trading that saw 90,000 contracts completed.

In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 dived almost £2 to finish at £96²¹⁄₃₂, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent lost £1⅛ at £102⁷⁄₁₆.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares on Wall Street fell sharply in response to the falling bond prices and stronger than expected employment figures. By midday the Dow Jones Industrial average was 61.41 points lower at 5,580.28.

Siebe was unable to make the most of an upbeat meeting with brokers on trading conditions. The group reported that, in spite of patchy market conditions, orders are rising. A reshuffle is under way to bring into sharper focus its automotive interests, with sales growing to £320 million. The shares eased 4p, to 833p.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
South West Water	616p	+118p	Wessex declares intention to bid
Zeneca	£13.64	+96p	Bumper figures, merger hopes
Copyright	109p	+27p	Trocadero takes 22.5 per cent
Yorkshire Water	676p	+44p	Speculative buying
Metal Bulletin	773p	+80p	Bumper profits news
British Biotech	£22.75	+232p	Encouraged by prospects
Faber Prest	415p	-134p	Profits warning
Vickers	264p	-21p	Figures, GKN not to bid
GKN	892p	+46p	Better than expected figures

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5580.28 (-61.41)
S&P Composite 644.63 (-9.02)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20155.87 (-198.72)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 11217.79 (+23.31)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 514.29 (-5.05)

Sydney:
AO 2267.6 (-1.6)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2469.12 (-11.82)

Singapore:
Straits 2400.76 (-1.67)

Brussels:
General 9008.89 (+75.83)

Paris:
CAC-40 1975.27 (-32.76)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 757.60 (-2.90)

London:
FT 30 2760.0 (-34.1)
FT 100 3710.3 (-47.9)
FT-SE Mid 250 4252.7 (-27.3)
FT-SE-A 350 1860.9 (-21.4)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100 1587.72 (-19.83)
FT A All-Share 1839.04 (-19.94)
FT Non Financials 1951.66 (-18.82)
FT Fixed Interest 111.71 (-0.21)
FT Govt Secs 92.64 (-0.75)
Bargains 37966
SEAQ Volume 895.8m
USM (Datastrm) 206.51 (-1.05)
US$ 1.5255 (-0.0047)
German Mark 2.2634 (+0.0015)
Exchange Index 83.7 (Same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.1939
£:SDR 1.0448
RPI 150.2 Jan (2.9%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 149.3 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

BZW Eq (Brrnd) A	521	...
Capital & Wstrn	2	...
Clubhaus (75)	6	...
Clubhaus Wts	3¼	...
Freepages (12)	14½	- 1
IOC Intl	130	+ 5
M & G Equity Cap	21½	...
M & G Equity Div	90	...
M & G Equity Inc	43	...
Optical Care (B)	70	...
Schroder UK G Uts	245	...
Shire Pharms (175)	202	- 3
Streamline (180)	179	+ 1
Visual Action (185)	229	- 1

RIGHTS ISSUES

Farnl Fn Ln n/p (540)	76	...
Headlam n/p (185)	33	+ 1
IAF n/p (10)	¼	...
Persimmon n/p (155)	32	+ 6

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Costain 91p (+10p)
Allders 202p (+12p)
Bostrom 300p (+15p)
GWR Group 259p (+12p)
Yates Bros 350p (+12p)
Cortecs 269p (+9p)
S&U 378p (+12p)
Brit Borneo 468p (+12p)
GKN 893p (+16p)
Securicor 'A' 948p (+10p)

FALLS:
Dailywin 117p (-33p)
Memory Corp 155p (-30p)
Shield Diag 118p (-15p)
Firecrest 120p (-12p)
Danka Bus Systems 648p (-41p)
Cadbury-Schw 519p (-16p)
Eve Group 140p (-8p)
Psion 905p (-50p)
HTV Group 365p (-19p)
GRE 239p (-10p)
Pifco 240p (-10p)
Border TV 276p (-11p)
Biotec Inv 310p (-10p)
Sun Alliance 380p (-12p)
Scot TV 638p (-20p)

Closing Prices Page 41

TEMPUS

Metals head back to base

THE price of base metals such as copper and aluminium continues to slide after last year's period of glory and the outlook for mining stocks such as RTZ-CRA and Minorco is now gloomy. As is usual in commodity industries, the problem stems from sharp increases in supply rather than a sudden lack of demand.

There are problems for copper, with weak construction demand in Europe, particularly in Germany as the housing boom in former east Germany tails off. But the US is picking up and Far Eastern demand, mainly from China, is growing by 10 per cent.

The fall in copper prices from last year's high levels of $1.40 per lb to $1.13-$1.18 is due to a gradual build-up of stocks from new production coming on stream, and the problem is likely to get worse. Over the past six months, 600,000 tonnes of new capacity came on stream and much more is expected. Supermines such as Minorco's Collahuasi copper project in Chile will be producing 300,000 tonnes per annum before the end of the century. While copper is suffering from a build-up in production, the aluminium price has plummeted because of the expiry of a two-year agreement by a cartel of producer countries to restrain supply. However, aluminium has a better price outlook than copper; many Russian producers that once dumped stocks in a desperate search for hard currency are on the verge of shutdown, unable to pay their electricity bills.

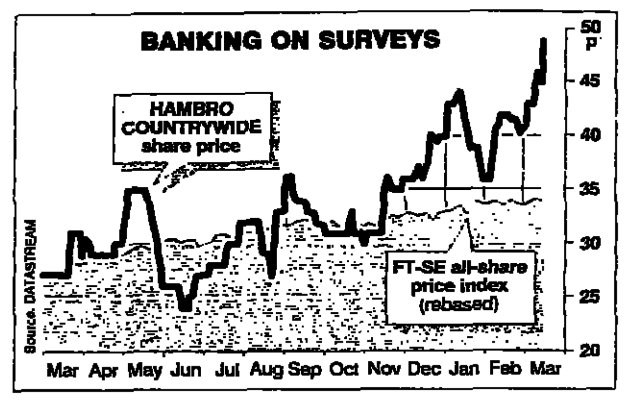
Highly efficient mining companies such as RTZ-CRA can continue to make money even if the copper price falls to 90 cents per lb, but share prices will drift until stock levels begin to fall.

Hambro Countrywide

YOU cannot fault Hambro Countrywide for dogged determination. Having amassed the largest estate agency chain in Britain, it watched grimly while the housing market accelerated downhill. Hambro reckons its logic of economies of scale and high operational gearing still holds good, but while volumes remain at a low level, the company pays the heavy cost of its branches.

Hambro's estate agents could make a proper living selling 80,000 houses a year, about two deals a week for each branch. But last year each Hambro Countrywide shop averaged only seven a month, and even that was well ahead of the national average. However, the target is not unachievable. If the chain manages to sustain the trend that began in January — a 25 per cent uplift in volume — it should finish the year in the black.

More secure than agency commissions is surveying work from mortgage lenders. Hambro is conducting, on an annualised basis, 150,000 surveys that could add £5 million to the bottom line. Add to that increased penetration of life assurance and the group has the capability of making decent profits. The big proviso is house sales. Having made a heavy pitch for volume, Hambro must live or die by the market, but it is in an excellent position to benefit from plunging mortgage rates. This could be the year of recovery.



Source: DATASTREAM

Rail privatisation

THE sight of Tarmac and GEC Alsthom piling into railway maintenance work will be alarming to smaller players that have bought up British Rail's infrastructure maintenance companies.

The maintenance companies, complete with guaranteed contracts of up to five years for various Railtrack projects, may have seemed a cheap way to buy an income stream.

But all good contracts come to an end and it is then that GEC and Tarmac aim to realise the most benefit from their £18.8 million purchase of CIMCo.

GT Railway Maintenance, the Tarmac/GEC venture, will not stop at CIMCo, the largest of the British Rail maintenance divisions. It intends to expand aggressively outside CIMCo's area and take up expiring contracts elsewhere. The contracts scattered throughout the 13 companies are between one and five years in duration and will be coming up for grabs shortly.

The move also marks a consolidation of Tarmac's rail interests. It owns Central TRC, a track renewal specialist based in Birmingham, and has been involved in several large rail engineering projects. It is also a big supplier of concrete railway sleepers. Add to that GEC's engineering experience and this partnership has the potential to clean up the market over the next five years.

Hotels

THE UK hotel trade is booming, with occupancy levels soaring and room yields increasing. Occupancy rates in top London hotels reached 83 per cent late last year, while room yields soared 11 per cent to £158 a room.

The rush to buy more hotels by mid-market provincial chains such as Regal suggest that the regions are not lagging far behind. But the investor faces a shortage of pure hotel stocks on the market. Granada or Bass shares might appear a low-risk punt on an upturn in hotels, but Ladbroke, with its troubled betting shops, or Vaux and its underperforming breweries are less attractive.

The flotation of Millennium Copthorne next month and the forthcoming rights issue from Regal should satisfy a desire for pure hotel stocks. But both groups have potential pitfalls of their own. Millennium will still be majority-owned by CDL, based in Hong Kong, while the outlook for Regal depends on the detail of the company's financing package. The renewed IRA campaign could halt the resurgent market, especially in upmarket hotels that rely heavily on North American visitors. There is plenty more action in the leisure sector, but investors cannot rely on hotels alone.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	894-885	May	994-995
May	904-906	Jul	unq
Jul	931-930	Sep	--
Sep	951-950	Dec	--
Dec	966-964		
Mar	985-984		Volume: 5805

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1990-1980	Nov	1710-1709
May	1829-1828	Jan	1700-1692
Jul	1760-1758	Mar	1690-1660
Sep	1728-1725		Volume: 2815

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	315.7-14.1
Spot: 395.5		Mar	312.7-07.2
May	377.1-76.5	May	307.5-06.2
Aug	358.6-57.5	Aug	unq
Oct	324.1-22.7		Volume: 949

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 7

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	105.09	136.47	119.31
(+/-)	+1.80	+3.76	-1.60
Eng/Wales:	105.09	136.94	118.99
(+/-)	+1.85	+3.64	-1.75
(%)	+14.0	-8.0	-2.0
Scotland:	unq	135.15	120.63
(+/-)	...	+4.05	-0.87
(%)	...	-10.0	-15.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.85	-0.25
Brent 15 day (Apr)	18.20	-0.10
Brent 15 day (May)	17.25	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	19.70	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (May)	18.85	-0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 183 (n/c)	O: 186 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	185 (n/c)	188 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Mar	184 (+1)	187 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Apr	165 (-1)	168 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	103 (n/c)	105 (n/c)
Naphtha	172 (+1)	174 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

Mar	184.75 SLR	Jun	151.00-51.50
Apr	161.25-61.75	Jul	149.75-50.00
May	154.50-54.75		Vol: 17563

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	18.16-18.17	Jul	16.39-16.42
May	17.25-17.27	Aug	unq
Jun	16.74 BID		Vol: 39666

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	115.15	Mar	107.50
May	117.45	May	107.90
Jul	119.55	Sep	105.50
Sep	109.15	Nov	107.40
Nov	110.40	Jan	109.25
Volume: 409			Volume: 7

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Apr	182.0	178.5
May	178.0	180.5
Jun	unq	225.0
		Volume: 117

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Apr 108.00-108.50

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 96	1440	1430	1438
Apr 96	1451	1450	1457
May 96	1430	1420	1420
Jul 96	1320	1310	1315
Vol: 272 lots		Open interest: 4883	

Index 1350 +2

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2602.0-2603.0	2568.0-2569.0	1375925
Lead ($/tonne)	784.00-785.00	776.00-777.00	354675
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1077.0-1078.0	1090.0-1090.5	722750
Tin ($/tonne)	6060.0-6080.0	6105.0-6110.0	37160
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1590.5-1591.5	1620.5-1621.0	1324125
Nickel ($/tonne)	7830.0-7835.0	7940.0-7945.0	61950

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Dom	500	19	26	37	11	22	27
(*503)	550	4	8	19	47	58	61
Argyll	300	18	25	29	3	13	16
(*313)	330	4	11	15	19	30	32
ASDA	100	8	11	14	1	3	9
(*106)	110	2	6	9	6	8	10
Boots	600	19	31	40	10	24	30
(*605)	650	3	11	19	45	57	61
Br Airways	500	32	42	49	5	14	20
(*526)	550	5	14	24	29	39	46
BP	500	40	48	55	2	7	12
(*536)	550	9	19	27	19	28	33
Br Steel	160	19	22	23	0	5	7
(*177)	180	5	10	12	7	15	16
C & W	420	34	43	51	4	13	17
(*447)	460	11	22	31	21	32	36
CU	550	45	60	66	1	8	17
(*589)	600	12	29	37	18	28	39
ICI	900	17	41	51	29	41	53
(*907)	950	4	21	31	67	73	83
Kingfishr	500	36	42	52	7	15	21
(*529)	550	6	18	27	35	42	47
Land Sec	600	16	24	29	8	24	27
(*606)	650	1	5	10	45	61	62
M & S	420	21	28	34	4	12	15
(*435)	460	2	9	15	36	35	38
Nat West	650	30	51	61	10	20	31
(*667)	700	8	27	39	38	47	57
Sainsbury	360	24	29	34	2	10	13
(*379)	390	6	12	19	15	25	28
Shell	800	49	51	60	6	13	21
(*845)	850	11	21	31	31	37	45
Smkl Bch	700	33	49	60	7	18	27
(*720)	750	8	24	35	34	44	52
Storehse	300	30	38	42	1	6	9
(*327)	330	10	19	25	10	17	21
Trafalgar	45	3	4	3	0	0	0
(*47)	50	0	1	0	3	3	3
Unilever	1200	25	41	59	31	41	46
(*1202)	1250	6	22	37	71	75	79
Zeneca	1350	40	81	99	40	63	74
(*1369)	1400	20	57	76	70	90	100
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	420	21	29	37	11	20	25
(*424)	460	6	12	20	37	43	48
Ladbroke	180	11	19	20	14	17	19
(*181)	200	5	10	13	27	30	31
Utd Bisc	220	15	21	24	7	11	13
(*231)	240	7	12	15	19	22	24

March 8, 1996 Tot: 54792 Calls: 22177 Puts: 32615 FT-SE Calls: 4820 Puts: 18980
*Underlying security price.

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	500	14	26	35	8	17	23
(*503)	550	1	8	15	46	50	54
Thames W	500	53	60	63	1	8	14
(*549)	550	16	25	31	12	30	33
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAT Ind	550	16	29	36	24	34	40
(*557)	600	3	13	19	62	68	72
BTR	300	24	27	30	4	7	11
(*323)	330	4	11	14	19	21	26
Br Aero	850	38	65	80	28	42	50
(*863)	900	17	42	57	58	69	77
Br Telcm	360	14	22	24	9	18	21
(*362)	390	4	10	12	29	37	40
Cadbury	500	25	38	46	16	21	27
(*518)	550	6	17	24	47	51	56
Guinness	460	13	25	30	18	23	28
(*462)	500	4	11	16	49	51	54
GEC	330	27	33	39	3	11	14
(*349)	360	9	16	20	15	26	29
Hanson	180	13	15	19	4	7	11
(*186)	200	3	6	10	15	19	22
LASMO	180	12	19	22	10	13	14
(*180)	200	5	11	14	22	25	26
Lucas	180	16	22	24	3	7	10
(*192)	200	5	11	14	13	17	20
Pilkingtn	210	11	17	—	7	13	—
(*211)	220	4	9	—	19	24	—
Prudential	430	24	36	42	13	20	26
(*438)	460	7	18	24	37	42	48
Redland	390	35	39	44	9	15	20
(*417)	420	10	22	29	24	30	34
R-Royce	200	15	21	25	6	10	12
(*209)	220	5	12	16	17	21	23
Tesco	280	11	17	21	12	15	21
(*281)	300	3	9	13	26	29	33
Vodafone	240	14	21	27	9	17	19
(*243)	260	5	13	18	21	28	30
Williams	330	12	17	20	12	14	18
(*334)	360	2	6	9	35	36	38

FT-SE INDEX (*3708)

	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850
Calls						
Mar	108	62	28	10	2	1
Apr	116	82	53	31	17	7
May	137	106	76	54	36	21
Jun	159	128	97	75	54	38
Dec	251	—	194	—	145	—
Puts						
Mar	6	12	29	63	109	159
Apr	37	45	66	94	129	170
May	49	64	85	112	144	179
Jun	62	79	100	127	157	191
Dec	130	—	161	—	212	—

Series		Calls Mar	Jun	Sep	Puts Mar	Jun	Sep
Abby Nat	550	19	38	48	3	14	24
(*565)	600	1	15	25	35	41	50
Amstrad	200	7	18	25	4	13	17
(*203)	220	1	9	16	18	25	28
Barclays	700	35	57	68	1	14	22
(*733)	750	6	28	40	19	35	45
Blue Circ	330	24	29	35	0	11	15
(*353)	360	4	12	20	10	26	30
Br Gas	220	15	20	22	0	6	10
(*235)	240	2	8	11	7	17	20
Dixons	460	11	30	38	5	18	27
(*466)	500	0	12	21	33	41	49
Forte	343	5	10	14	2	5	8
(*345)	373	0	1	3	27	27	28
Tarmac	110	8	12	15	0	5	8
(*117)	120	2	7	10	4	10	13
Hillsdwn	180	4	9	11	2	10	13
(*182)	200	0	2	5	17	26	27
Lonrho	180	12	19	23	0	4	7
(*191)	200	1	9	13	9	14	16
Sears	90	5	7	9	0	3	4
(*95)	100	0	2	4	5	9	10
Thorn	1600	40	92	118	10	40	68
(*1627)	1700	3	45	70	73	94	121
Tomkins	260	8	17	22	2	6	14
(*266)	280	1	8	13	14	17	25
Lloyds TSB	292	26	30	—	0	5	—
(*318)	322	4	18	—	7	15	—
Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	800	49	66	80	8	22	32
(*844)	850	18	39	53	32	45	57
HSBC	1000	55	75	93	19	36	51
(*1047)	1050	24	50	68	45	61	76
Reuter	700	20	40	53	23	35	44
(*701)	750	5	19	32	60	67	74
Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Royal Ins	360	17	28	35	9	17	23
(*365)	390	5	15	22	27	34	40
Series		Mar	Jun		Mar	Jun	
Fisons	260	5	5	—	0	0	—
(*265)	280	0	0	—	15	19	—
Series		May			May		
Eastrn Gp	950	35	—	—	0	—	—
(*975)	1000	0	—	—	25	—	—
Series		Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Natl Pwr	460	17	37	37	2	14	21
(*475)	500	0	13	18	25	38	43
Scot Pwr	330	27	35	41	0	3	8
(*356)	360	4	16	22	7	14	22

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 68169	Mar 96	3765.0	3778.0	3664.0	3699.0	24155
	Jun 96	3768.5	3776.0	3664.0	3700.0	6869
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 4343	Mar 96	4280.0	4280.0	4280.0	4230.0	62
	Jun 96	4296.5	4296.5	4296.5	4246.5	62
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 351120	Mar 96	93.94	93.96	93.86	93.87	27126
	Jun 96	94.09	94.14	93.87	93.90	56726
	Sep 96	94.04	94.06	93.67	93.78	36453
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 0	Mar 96				94.63	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1150539	Mar 96	96.69	96.70	96.63	96.65	12747
	Jun 96	96.81	96.84	96.69	96.72	39828
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 139538	Mar 96	107-23	107-23	105-24	105-22	6682
	Jun 96	106-27	106-30	104-15	104-27	89443
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 96	118.57	118.63	118.10	118.23	3089
	Sep 96	117.34	117.38	116.92	117.01	72
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 219284	Jun 96	96.65	96.75	95.40	95.48	192942
	Sep 96	95.86	95.86	95.74	94.65	740
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 24282	Mar 96	95.40	95.41	95.35	95.37	825
	Jun 96	95.53	95.53	95.35	95.46	1168
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 65994	Mar 96	98.30	98.30	98.24	98.28	1892
	Jun 96	98.22	98.24	98.10	98.18	6315
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 48856	Jun 96	110.20	110.39	108.65	108.67	52978
	Sep 96				108.17	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6¾
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6½ Low 5¾ Week fixed: 6
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5¹¹⁄₁₆ : 3 mth 5²¹⁄₃₂ . Sell: 2 mth 5⅝ : 3 mth: 5⁹⁄₁₆ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5¹¹⁄₁₆-5⅝	5¹¹⁄₁₆-5⅝	5²¹⁄₃₂-5¹⁹⁄₃₂	5⅝-5⁹⁄₁₆	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6³⁄₃₂-6¹⁄₃₂	6⅛-6⅛
Interbank:	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6³⁄₃₂-6¹⁄₃₂	6⅛-6⅛

Overnight: open 6¼, close 6 .

Local Authority Deps:	6	n/a	6	5¹⁵⁄₁₆	5¹⁵⁄₁₆
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6¹⁄₁₆-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.27	n/a	5.26	5.30	5.44
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6¹⁄₁₆-6⅛

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £3,703m allotted: £800m: Bids: £98.55% received: 28%: Last week: £98.535% received: 48%: Avge rate: £5.8079% last wk £5.8748%: Next week: £800m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-4²⁹⁄₃₂	5³⁄₁₆-5¹⁄₁₆	5¼-5⅛	5⁵⁄₁₆-5³⁄₁₆	5-4
Deutschemark:	3½-3¼	3½-3⅜	3⁵⁄₁₆-3³⁄₁₆	3⁵⁄₁₆-3³⁄₁₆	3¼-2¾
French Franc:	4⅛-3¹⁵⁄₁₆	4⅛-3¹⁵⁄₁₆	4⅛-4⅛	4⅛-4¹⁄₁₆	4¼-3½
Swiss Franc:	1¹⁵⁄₁₆-1¹³⁄₁₆	1⅞-1¾	1⅞-1¾	1⅞-1¾	2-1
Yen:	½-⅜	⁹⁄₁₆-⁷⁄₁₆	⁹⁄₁₆-⁷⁄₁₆	½-⅜	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $395.60-395.90 Close: $395.00-395.50 High: $398.40-398.90
Low: $394.00-394.50 AM: $394.85 PM: $396.80

Krugerrand: $394.50-396.50 (£258.75-260.75)

Platinum: $411.50 (£269.40) Silver: $5.43 (£3.565) Palladium: $136.75 (£89.55)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 8	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5271-2.5388	2.5355-2.5388	⅛-¹⁄₁₆pr	1¼-1⅛pr
Brussels	46.40-46.66	46.56-46.66	13-9pr	34-29pr
Copenhagen	8.7150-8.7710	8.7490-8.7710	1½-1pr	4¼-3¾pr
Dublin	0.9713-0.9757	0.9713-0.9739	11-8pr	25-20pr
Frankfurt	2.2563-2.2683	2.2652-2.2683	½-⅜pr	1⅝-1½pr
Lisbon	234.05-235.48	234.86-235.48	¼-½ds	¾-1¼ds
Madrid	189.96-190.80	190.35-190.64	39-49ds	115-132ds
Milan	2381.2-2392.1	2381.2-2385.1	6-8ds	20-22ds
Montreal	2.0918-2.0988	2.0818-2.0848	0.22-0.13pr	0.37-0.26pr
New York	1.5236-1.5284	1.5236-1.5246	0.11-0.09pr	0.30-0.27pr
Oslo	9.8100-9.8640	9.8490-9.8640	1¼-⅞pr	3⅛-2¾pr
Paris	7.7330-7.7720	7.7580-7.7720	1⅛-1¼pr	3⅛-3¼pr
Stockholm	10.389-10.419	10.396-10.419	¼-⅛ds	¼-⅛ds
Tokyo	161.06-161.73	161.31-161.58	½-⅜pr	2¼-2⅛pr
Vienna	15.869-15.958	15.931-15.958	⅝-⅜pr	1½-⅞pr
Zurich	1.8359-1.8403	1.8368-1.8396	⅝-½pr	2-1¾pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3032-1.3041
Austria	10.41-10.42
Belgium (Com)	30.44-30.46
Canada	1.3655-1.3660
Denmark	5.7220-5.7250
France	5.0725-5.0745
Germany	1.4816-1.4826
Hong Kong	7.7323-7.7327
Ireland	1.5680-1.5690
Italy	1561.50-1562.25
Japan	105.84-105.89
Malaysia	2.5400-2.5410
Netherlands	1.6590-1.6595
Norway	6.4406-6.4433
Portugal	152.91-153.01
Singapore	1.4080-1.4090
Spain	124.62-124.71
Sweden	6.8137-6.8221
Switzerland	1.2025-1.2035

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5275-1.5301
Australia dollar	1.9900-1.9926
Bahrain dinar	0.5695-0.5815
Brazil real*	1.4938-1.4980
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7025-0.7125
Finland markka	6.9675-7.0835
Greece drachma	365.75-372.75
Hong Kong dollar	11.8055-11.8094
India rupee	51.53-52.49
Indonesia rupiah	3514.0-3582.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4515-0.4615
Malaysia ringgit	3.8781-3.8806
New Zealand dollar	2.2589-2.2612
Pakistan rupee	52.47 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.4975-5.6215
Singapore dollar	2.1497-2.1518
S Africa rand (com)	5.9620-6.0640
U A E dirham	5.5475-5.6715

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	829	Land Secs	5,700
ASDA Gp	17,000	Legal & Gn	1,300
Abbey Ntl	3,600	Lloyds TSB	15,000
Allied Dom	3,800	Marks Spr	5,300
Argos	346	NatWst Bk	7,800
Argyll Gp	5,200	Nat Grid	4,500
AB Foods	594	Nat Power	2,700
BAA	5,100	P & O	1,900
BAT Inds	7,300	Pearson	1,700
BOC	388	Pilkington	1,800
BP	5,400	PowerGen	830
BSkyB	1,900	Prudential	3,000
BTR	10,000	REXAM	4,700
BT	14,000	RMC	352
Bk of Scot	1,900	RTZ	3,900
Barclays	5,200	Rank Org	3,100
Bass	3,000	Reckitt Col	1,700
Blue Circle	350	Redland	2,400
Boots	885	Reed Intl	791
BAe	1,200	Rentokil	2,100
BA	3,300	Reuters	4,000
Brit Gas	14,000	Rolls Royce	11,000
Brit Steel	12,000	Royal Ins	10,000
Burmah Cstl	467	Ryl Bk Scot	4,700
Burton	2,300	Sainsbury	3,200
Cable Wire	5,200	Schroders	83
Cadbury	7,200	Scot & New	953
Carlton Cms	4,700	Scot Power	1,400
Cm Union	2,700	Svrn Trent	276
Cookson	2,700	Shell Trans	5,400
Courtaulds	1,900	Siebe	1,400
Dixons	819	Smkl Bch	6,300
Enterpr Oil	4,200	Smith Nph	4,600
For & Col IT	1,200	Smiths Inds	896
GKN	2,500	Sthern Elec	247
GRE	4,800	Std Chartd	3,200
GUS	1,700	Sun Allnce	5,800
Gen Acc	3,100	TI Gp	1,500
Gen Elec	4,700	Tate & Lyle	429
Glaxo Well	20,000	Tesco	3,900
Granada	6,700	Thames W	2,800
Grand Met	3,100	Thrn EMI	1,500
Greenalls	359	Tomkins	2,800
Guinness	4,000	Unilever	898
HSBC	4,300	United Utils	1,700
Hanson	18,000	Vodafone	8,200
ICI	4,200	Whitbread	677
Kingfisher	4,400	Wlms Hld	1,100
LASMO	15,000	Wolseley	1,100
Ladbroke	4,300	Zeneca	4,400

WALL STREET

	Mar 8 midday	Mar 7 close
AMP Inc	42	42
AMR Corp	86	86
AT & T	63	64
Abbott Labs	43	43
Advanced Micro	17	17
Aetna Life	76	78
Ahmanson (HF)	24	25
Air Prod & Chem	55	55
AirTouch Comm	30	31
Alberto-Culver B	38	38
Albertson's	37	38
Alcan Alumnm	32	32
Alco Standard	49	49
Allied Signal	56	57
Alum Co of Am	59	58
Amax Gold Inc	7	7
Amerada Hess	51	51
Amer Brands	45	45
Amer El Power	42	43
Amer Express	45	46
Amer Genl Corp	36	36
Amer Home Pr	102	104
Amer Intl	95	98
Amer Stores	28	28
Amer Standard	29	29
Ameritech	55	56
Amoco	70	70
Anheuser-Busch	68	68
Apple Computer	25	25
Archer Daniels	18	19
Armco	5	5
Armstrng Wrld	59	60
Asarco	31	32
Ashland Oil	35	36
Atl Richfield	110	112
Auto Data Pro	38	39
Avery Dennison	53	54
Avon Products	80	80
Baker Hughes	26	26
Baltim Gas & El	27	28
Banc One	35	36
BankAmerica	74	76
Bank of NY	51	52
Bankers Tr NY	65	66
Barnett Banks	62	63
Bausch & Lomb	39	39
Baxter Intl	45	46
Becton Dicknsn	85	86
Bell Atlantic	64	65
Bell Industries	20	21
BellSouth	38	39
Black & Decker	35	35
Block (H&R)	33	34
Boeing	79	80
Boise Cascade	38	38
Bristol Myrs Sq	87	87
Browning Ferris	30	30
Brunswick	22	23
Burlington Nthn	81	80
CBI Inds	32	33
CNA Financial	115	117
CPC Intl	71	71
CSX	44	45
Campbell Soup	64	65
Can Pacific	19	20
Carolina Pwr	36	36
Caterpillar	66	67
Central & SW	27	27
Champion Intl	45	44
Chase Manhat	69	72
Chemical Bk	67	69
Chevron Corp	54	55
Chrysler	59	59
Chubb Corp	97	100
Cigna Corp	120	123
Citicorp	78	79
Clorox	83	85
Coastal Corp	37	37
Coca Cola	82	83
Colgate-Palmolive	79	80
Columbia Gas	44	45
ColumbiaHCA	56	56
Compaq Comp	39	39
Comp Ass Intl	67	68
Conagra	43	43
Conrail	74	74
Cons Edison	32	32
Cons Nat Gas	42	43
Cooper Inds	37	38
Corestates	42	43
Corning Inc	33	34
Crown Cork	48	49
Dana Corp	31	32
Dayton Hudson	78	79
Deere	41	40
Delta Air Lines	75	75
Deluxe Corp	32	33
Digital Equip	63	64
Dillard Dept St	33	33
Disney (Walt)	67	67
Dominion Res	39	40
Donnelley (RR)	36	37
Dover Corp	43	44
Dow Chemical	81	80
Dow Jones	40	40
Dresser	28	28
Duke Power	49	51
Dun & Brdstreet	62	63
Du Pont	77	78
Eastman Chem	70	71
Eastman Kodak	73	75
Eaton Corp	56	57
Edison Int	17	17
Emerson Elec	79	81
Engelhard Corp	20	20
Enron Corp	36	36
Entergy	27	28
Ethyl Corp	10	10
Exxon	82	82
FMC Corp	71	74
FPL Group	44	45
Federal Express	72	72
Fed Nat Mtge	32	33
First Interstate	161	164
First Union Rlty	7	7
Fleet Finl Grp	40	41
Fluor Corp	68	68
Ford Motor	31	32
GTE Corp	43	43
Gannett	67	68
Gap Inc Del	53	53
Gen Dynamics	60	61
Gen Electric	76	78
Gen Mills	58	59
Gen Motors	51	52
Gen Reinsurance	150	153
Gen Signal	36	36
Genuine Parts	41	42
Georgia Pac	67	67
Gillette	54	54
Glaxo Wellc ADR	25	26
Goodrich (BF)	75	76
Goodyear Tire	50	51
Grace (W&R)	78	80
Grt Atl Pac Tea	23	23
Great Wstn Fin	24	25
Halliburton	54	55
Harcourt General	45	46
Heinz (HJ)	34	34
Hercules	62	63
Hershey Foods	76	77
Hewlett Packard	92	93
Hilton Hotels	93	95
Home Depot	47	48
Homestake Mng	18	18
Honeywell	53	53
Household Intl	67	69
Houston Inds	22	23
Humana	24	25
ITT Corp	60	61
Illinois Tool	65	65
Illinova	27	28
INCO	32	33
Ingersoll Rand	41	41
Inland Steel	25	25
Intel Corp	53	53
IBM	116	117
Intl Flav & Fr	49	50
Intl Paper	38	38
James River Va	26	26
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	96	98
Kellogg	77	78
Kerr-McGee	61	62
Kimberly-Clark	78	78
Kmart	7	8
Knight-Ridder	70	69
Lilly (Eli)	65	67
Limited Inc	19	19
Lincoln Nat	52	54
Litton	48	49
Liz Claiborne	34	35
Lockheed Martin	75	76
Louisiana Pac	24	24
MCI Comm	29	29
Marriott Int	49	50
Marsh & McLnn	96	99
Masco Corp	28	28
May Dept St	48	49
Maytag Corp	20	20
McDonalds	51	52
McDonnell D	86	88
McGraw Hill	89	90
Mead Corp	52	52
Medtronic	58	59
Mellon Bk	54	56
Melville Corp	32	32
Merck Inc	66	67
Merrill Lynch	57	59
Microsoft	96	97
Minnesota Mine	64	65
Mobil Corp	113	114
Monsanto	136	138
Morgan (JP)	83	84
Motorola Inc	53	52
Natl Semi	14	14
Natl Service Ind	34	34
Navistar Int	10	10
NY Times A	28	29
Newmont Mng	53	52
Niag Mohawk	7	7
Nike B	73	74
NL Industries	13	13
Noram Energy	9	9
Nordstrom	46	48
Norflk Sthn	84	83
Nthn State Pwr	50	51
Norwest Corp	34	39
Nynex Corp	51	52
Occidental Pet	23	24
Ohio Edison	23	24
Oracle	47	49
Oryx Energy Co	13	13
Owens Corning	41	42
PHH Corp	51	51
PPG Industries	46	46
PNC Bank	29	30
PPBL Res	24	24
Paccar Inc	48	48
Pacificorp	20	20
Pac Enterprises	26	26
Pac Gas & Elec	25	26
Pac Telesis	28	28
Pall Corp	27	27
Panhandle East	30	30
Parker Hannifin	35	35
Peco Energy	27	28
Penney (JC)	48	49
Pennzoil	38	39
Pepsico	63	65
Pfizer	66	67
Pharm & Upjhn	43	43
Phelps Dodge	63	63
Philip Morris	103	104
Phillips Pet	37	37
Pitney Bowes	47	48
Polaroid	43	44
PriceCostco	17	18
Procter & Gmbl	86	87
Providian	44	45
Pub Serv E & G	26	27
Quaker Oats	34	34
Ralston Purina	67	67
Raychem Corp	67	67
Raytheon	51	53
Reebok Intl	30	31
Reynolds Metals	55	55
Rockwell Intl	57	58
Rohm & Haas	72	73
Royal Dutch	139	141
Rubbermaid	28	28
SBC Comms	54	54
Safeco Corp	35	36
St Paul's Cos	56	57
Salomon Inc	37	37
Sara Lee Corp	34	34
Schering Plough	61	61
Schlumberger	74	75
Seagram	34	34
Sears Roebuck	47	47
Shell Trans	79	79
Sherwin Wllms	43	43
Skyline Corp	23	24
Snap-On-Tools	45	45
Southern Co	23	24
Sprint Corp	39	44
Stanley Works	54	54
Sun Company	28	28
Sun Microsys	46	47
Suntrust	71	72
Supervalu	32	32
Sysco Corp	32	33
TRW Inc	87	88
TCC Inds	2	2
Tandem Comp	9	9
Tandy Corp	45	46
Teledyne	28	29
Temple Inland	42	43
Tenneco	55	56
Texaco	83	83
Texas Inst	50	49
Texas Utilities	40	41
Textron	82	82
Time Warner	43	44
Times-Mirror A	36	36
Timken	45	45
Torchmark	46	47
Toys R Us	25	26
Transamerica	77	78
Travelers	65	67
Tribune	67	67
Tyco Labs	37	37
UST Inc	35	35
UAL	186	188
US Inds	20	20
USX Marathon	18	18
Unicom	32	33
Unilever NV	132	134
Union Camp	49	49
Union Carbide	45	45
Union Pacific	68	69
Unisys Corp	6	6
USAIR Group	16	17
USF&G Corp	15	15
US Life	29	29
United Tech	108	109
Unocal Corp	30	30
VF Corp	54	55
WMX Tech	30	30
Wal-Mart Stores	22	22
Warner-Lambert	104	106
Wells Fargo	243	247
Westinghouse El	18	18
Weyerhaeuser	45	45
Whirlpool	55	56
Whitman	25	25
Winn Dixie	35	36
Woolworth	14	14
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	59	59
Xerox	130	130
Yellow Corp	10	10

[illegible]

مركز الاهرام

INVESTMENTS 33

Led by your conscience and pocket

WEEKEND
MONEY

INSURANCE 37

Cold comfort for drivers on premiums?

Lenders act swiftly over base rate cut

Sara McConnell and **Caroline Merrell** on the welcome news for millions of homeowners

Halifax Building Society was the first lending institution to drop its mortgage rate after yesterday's 0.25 percentage point cut in base rates.

However, the base rate cut is not good news for savers, as many of the societies that followed the Halifax indicated that they could be forced to cut savings rates.

The swift reaction of the Halifax angered the Nationwide, which claimed the UK's biggest society had recently said it did not see the need for any further rate cuts.

The Nationwide is already planning to cut its variable rate in April to 6.99 per cent as part of its £200 million mutuality reward package.

A Nationwide spokesman said: "Only a few weeks ago the Halifax was claiming that it was unnecessary to cut rates any further." The society, the second largest, pointed out that its new deal will still undercut the Halifax, but added that it was considering whether to adjust its rates in light of the base rate move.

New borrowers with Halifax will get an interest rate of 7.25 per cent, down from 7.49 per cent — the lowest level for nearly 30 years. However, the benefits of the rate change will not be passed on to the Halifax's 2.4 million existing borrowers until April.

Mike Blackburn, Halifax chief executive, said: "Halifax led the way with mortgage rate cuts in November and December. In the current interest rate environment, we believe our new rates are at the right level."

The cut will mean that a borrower with a £60,000 repayment mortgage will now pay £411.59 a month, a reduction of £8.50. The other lenders to follow suit include the Abbey National, Woolwich, Midland Bank and Northern Rock.

For new borrowers with the Abbey National intending to borrow more than £60,000, the rate drops to 7.24 per cent. For loans more than £100,000, the rate is 7.19, and for loans less than £60,000, the rate is 7.29. Existing borrowers will have to wait for two months to feel the benefit of the rate cut.

The Bradford & Bingley will be making a statement next week, but is expected to offer a rate of around 6.99 per cent through its branches and a rate of around 6 per cent through its direct division, Bradford & Bingley Direct, its lowest rate for 38 years.

The rate cut will add to the housing market's new-found optimism, but will probably lead to further cuts in savers' rates. Most of the lending institutions which cut their rates this week said they were keeping savings rates under review. Lenders and estate agents claim that over the last few weeks, buyers and sellers have started to reappear on the market and are beginning to satisfy years of pent-up demand.

Both lenders and agents are reporting a surge of activity fuelled by the cheaper mortgage deals and low interest rates and are confident that this will continue.

The Halifax said that house prices had risen 0.9 per cent in February and 0.2 per cent year on year. The monthly increase was the seventh in succession and the Halifax said this "gives further support to our view that a recovery is now taking place".

The society forecasts a 2 per cent increase in prices in 1996 and a 10 per cent rise in activity. This would be enough to lift a significant number of borrowers out of negative equity. An estimated 1.5 million people have homes worth less than their mortgage.

Estate agents across Britain are seeing renewed interest from buyers and sellers. Rising house prices are expected to convince many potential buyers that they should buy now rather than wait. Peter Miller, national housing spokesman for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said: "There is growing evidence that prices are rising gently and confidence is rising."

MATILDA HARRISON

What is on offer for N&P members

Anne Ashworth on the rewards in store if the Abbey National deal goes through

While the future direction of other building societies remains unclear, the destiny of the National & Provincial (N&P), the seventh in size, is fixed. This week, the society's 1.4 million members received full and, in places, fearsomely complex details of the £1.35 billion Abbey National takeover.

They must cast their votes by post by April 6, or in person at Manchester's Nynex arena on April 11. If they give their assent, they should get their windfall by early September, provided that the Building Societies Commission, the industry watchdog, approves.

Under the terms of the deal, qualifying investors, those who had at least £100 in share accounts at December 31, 1995, and at April 28, 1995, stand to receive £500 worth of Abbey National shares. Share accounts are those which carry voting rights, as opposed to deposit accounts which do not make you a member of the society.

Borrowers who had at least £100 in a mortgage account at April 28, 1995 and who were with the society at December 31, 1995 should also receive the £500 worth of free shares. If you have both a loan and an account, you can receive two packages of shares.

This fixed distribution will not be available to longer-term savers, who qualify instead for the variable distribution, which will be worth about £3,500. Two-year qualifying savers, those who had at least £100 invested with the society at midnight on December 31, 1993, in the all-important share account are entitled to receive a cash payment of £750, plus an extra payment of 7 per cent of the lower of their account balances at April 28, 1995, and at midnight on August 4, 1996. The following day, August 5, is the likely completion date for the deal (called throughout the prospectus the vesting date).

All mortgage and share accounts must be open at August 5, 1996. If you are both a two-year qualifying saver and a borrower, you are eligible for both a fixed distribution and a variable distribution. No matter how many accounts you hold, you will be entitled to only one variable or fixed interest distribution.

As in other building society merger bonanzas, only the first-named accountholder has the right to vote, a rule laid down not by the building societies themselves but by the Building Societies Act.

This means that first-named holders get the shares. However, the prospectus points out that they should have "regard to the rights of other holders", although it does not specify how these rights should be preserved, perhaps believing this is a private matter between husbands and wives.

The National & Provincial's child savers may not vote and so cannot benefit from either the fixed or the variable distribution. But they will get the statutory cash bonus of some 9 per cent of the account. This will also be given to savers who are not entitled to vote because they had less than £100 in their share accounts at December 31, 1995.

A bigger boost to confidence

PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Quarter point cuts in short-term interest rates are now more about psychology than direct economic effects. The impact on the money supply, considered central a few years ago, is now discounted. Otherwise there would have been no cut. People who have to pay three times the base rate on their credit cards are not going to rush out and strip the high street bare. Employees in an uncertain labour market would be just as foolish to borrow for inessential purchases. Would-be homebuyers should not trade up because they can borrow a bit more at the new variable rate. Savers will not turn into spendthrifts in disgust. Companies will not change their investment decisions, or pay their bills faster.

By contrast, the psychological impact of a nice round 6 per cent base rate should be considerable. Its importance lies in convincing people who are inured to twenty years of boom and slump that the economy can continue to grow indefinitely, albeit at a modest and variable pace. Economic recovery will not automatically get out of hand, boost inflation, bring soaring interest rates and land us slap on our faces.

Housebuyers will still take some convincing that the nightmare of 15 per cent base rates and double-figure inflation can be dismissed from their calculations. After all, the Treasury and the Bank of England were only persuaded to reverse last year's rate rises because economic growth stuttered briefly to a halt. But there is plenty of reassuring evidence from other countries, notably America. Rising interest rates really can be a method of fine-tuning growth, as in the textbooks, not the prelude to a crunching adjustment, as in recent British economic history.

Interest rates can go down, as well as up, without a recession. This is an important message in building confidence. For nearly 3½ years now, base rates have ranged between 5 and 7 per cent. That is in no sense cheap money at today's inflation rates. Growth-mongers across Europe will want to shift the range lower to raise sluggish long-term growth rates and cut unemployment. Unless they win the day, however, the risk of unsustainable boom or slump is now much smaller. For some years ahead, British policymakers of either party will surely think it wiser to keep rebuilding confidence and rely on that to edge the sustainable growth rate higher.

The virtue of dull stability is that people can plan ahead and take decisions that have been put off. This applies both to investors and to borrowers. If building societies and banks are able to respond to more stable conditions, it will again make sense for many people to tie their mortgages to rates of interest they can afford to pay indefinitely. For this purpose 8 per cent for ten years, the longest realistic fixed borrowing period, still looks a bit pricey. There is quite a big payment for the risk of higher inflation in that figure, inflation that might no longer be reflected in house prices. If that risk element shrinks a bit further, borrowers could stop looking over their shoulder, for fear that they will look silly if something radically cheaper became available. Envy is a poor guide to financial decisions.

Investors can afford to be more sanguine now, because that equation is better for them than for borrowers. While long-term savers should be loyal to equities, mature investors should be thinking about locking in long-term interest rates. Gilt-edged stocks with more than 15 years of life in them offer about 8¼ per cent. That compares with 3¾ per cent interest yield on index-linked stocks, implying a 4½ per cent payment for inflation.

If confidence in stability grows, investors should be able to pocket some of that risk premium. In America, for instance, 10-year Treasury bonds yield about 1¾ points less than the near 8 per cent available on 10-year gilt-edged stocks, although yesterday's fall on Wall Street shrinks the gap. And the "real" rate of interest, as shown by the yield on index-linked stocks, might come down too. But do not look for miracle gains. They only go with high risks.

Mergers at societies on the boil

After a brief shutdown, the building society rumour machine is again whirring away (Anne Ashworth writes).

This week, the Bristol & West conceded that its commitment to mutuality was not necessarily wholehearted, although the society's board remains undecided on its next step.

It is said that the Bristol & West would be most likely to merge with a larger society or bank. A similar fate, or so the gossips maintain, may also be in store for the West Bromwich Building Society, which has assets of £1.5 billion. Among those more than interested in acquiring WB, which has been dogged by controversy, is the Birmingham Midshires, the tenth-largest society, with assets of £7.7 billion.

The object of its desires said this week that it was not in talks with anyone. "We want to remain independent," it said. The society is continuing its search for a chief executive to replace Glenn Elliott, who departs next month. To date, no appointment has been made, despite the lure of a £130,000-a-year salary.

Mr Elliott's sudden resignation rekindled merger speculation. The WB says his decision was not connected with the home-income plan litigation facing the society. Legal firms, such as Barnett Sampson, are poised to issue claims on behalf of pensioners who took out WB home-income plans and have suffered losses. The society is also being pursued by the Investors' Compensation Scheme for at least £10 million it has paid to pensioner victims in part settlement of claims.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

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Schroders

Paul Durman on the advantages and drawbacks of index funds

On track for a steady performance

The gods of publicity have again smiled kindly on Richard Branson and his Virgin Direct financial services offshoot.

Exactly 12 months from the launch of Virgin Direct's tracker personal equity plan (Pep), Virgin's UK index tracking fund was last week standing top of the one-year performance tables for UK growth and income unit trusts. Its 28.1 per cent growth bettered the results achieved by 136 similar funds, and far outstripped the sector's average return of 18.7 per cent.

This is a compelling contribution to the index versus active fund debate. Most of the other index trackers were also well-placed: Gartmore UK Index was fourth (up 26.7 per cent), HSBC Footsie Fund was fifth (26.6 per cent), Legal & General UK Index was 31st (21.8 per cent) and Norwich Union's UK Index Tracking fund was 33rd (21.7 per cent).

Rowan Gormley, Virgin Direct's managing director, said: "For years, salesmen have earned high commissions by peddling stories of the tremendous returns generated by these strange financial wizards called fund managers.

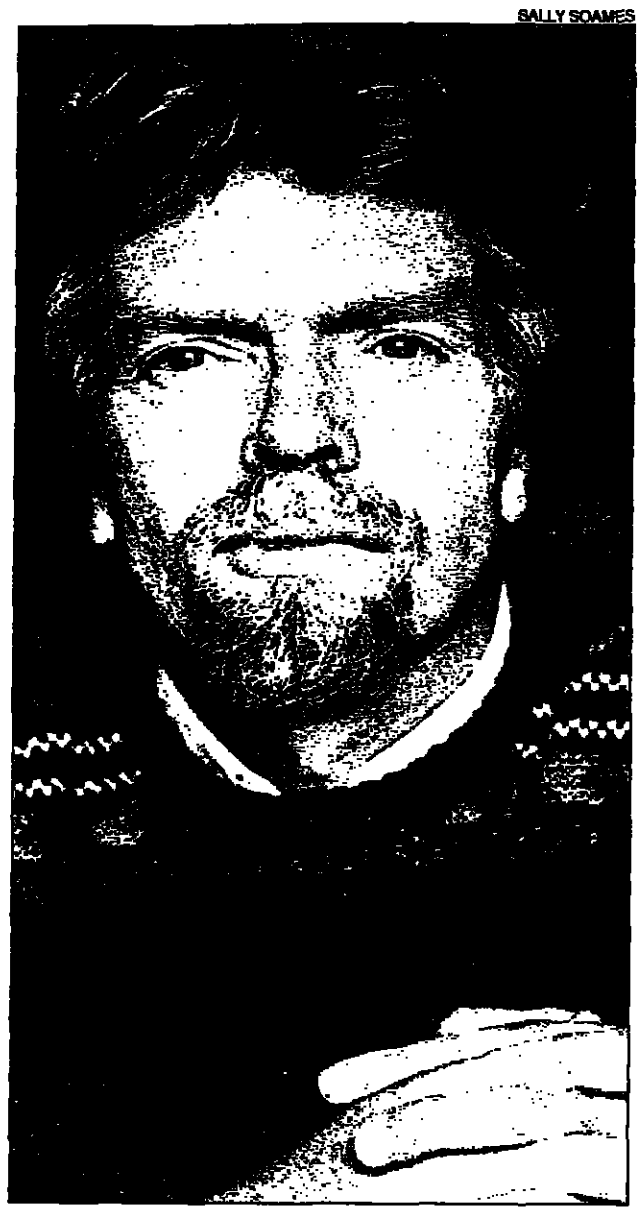
"Active fund managers have to take bets, and don't always get their bets right. But you would have thought someone would have got it right."

Tracker funds are designed to mirror the movement of a chosen stock market index, such as the FT all-share, by buying the stock of the companies that comprise the index.

The high placing of the Virgin fund reflects its low charges. When charges are stripped out, on a pure performance basis, Virgin is ranked a more modest 42nd, with HSBC 40th and Gartmore 45th.

Over longer periods, the effect of charges becomes relatively less important — which means that the best-performing active funds should beat index funds. Mr Gormley said investors should challenge their fund managers. He said: "If you're holding a Pep, you should call up your fund manager and ask him if he's outperformed. If not, is he charging more than a 1 per cent annual management fee and, if so, what is he charging it for?"

SALLY SOAMES

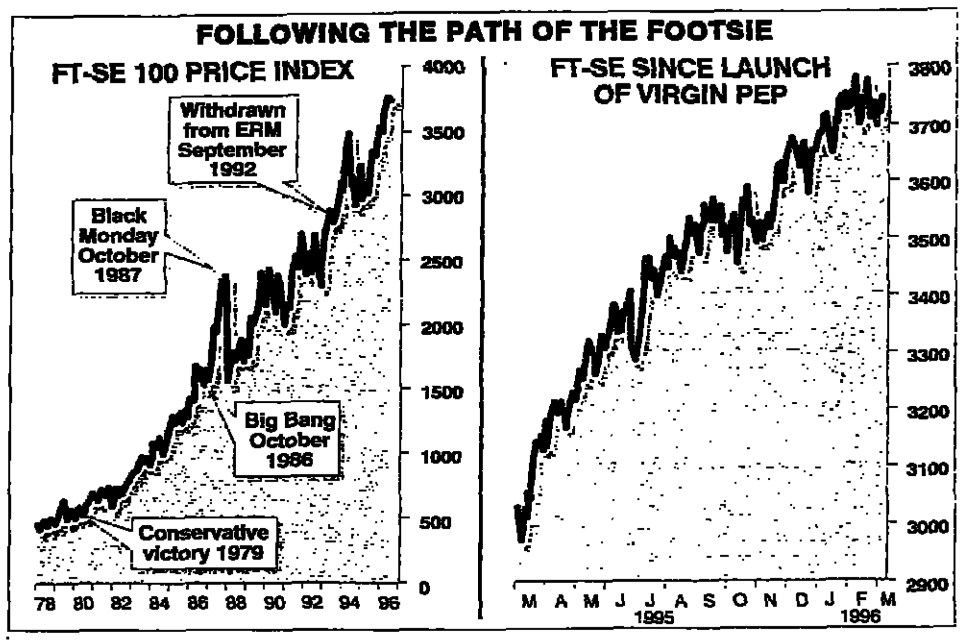


Richard Branson's Virgin Direct Pep has proved popular

Last year's strong stock market favoured index funds, since they are usually fully invested and do not, like active funds, have money sitting on deposit. The shares of large companies were particularly strong during 1995, also a benefit to the index funds.

One attraction of tracker funds is that, although they will rarely top the investment performance charts, equally, they should never be bottom. Alan Gadd, chief executive of HSBC Asset Management, another company that offers a tracker Pep, said: "Many people aren't looking for the *nth* degree of performance. They just know it's better to have their savings in the stock market, and will be comfortable if their money outperforms the building society."

FOLLOWING THE PATH OF THE FOOTSIE



Virgin Direct, Direct Line and others believe that the simplicity of index funds will make Peps attractive to thousands of savers who previously shied away from stock market investments. For those who don't know their Schroders from their Schreibers, the only thing to understand about an index fund is that shares have traditionally produced much better returns than building society accounts.

Even leading investment houses Gartmore and Fidelity, which built their reputations on the back of good performance, have made a pitch for these new investors and introduced low-cost index funds. Fidelity's Moneybuilder Pep has no initial charge and an annual charge of only 0.5 per cent. This is half the cost of Direct Line's tracker Pep.

Some fund managers remain strongly opposed to indexing. David Mossop, chief executive of Perpetual, points out that index managers are forced to buy the shares of companies even when any informed observer can clearly see that they are facing problems.

Mr Mossop said: "Polly Peck was a FT-SE 100 company. It was apparent that it was going bust for some time before it did so, yet all the index trackers were having to buy it."

Perpetual can boast an enviable performance record. Unfortunately, the statistics show that few active managers judge investment decisions so clearly. Mr Mossop can see the attractions of index funds, particularly for those outside the financial world who are unfamiliar with the various investment companies and their reputations, and unable or unwilling to research them.

> ‘Active fund managers have to take bets, and don't always get them right’

Mr Mossop said: "Index funds are a very good way for somebody who does not want to spend any time or money to do something quite cheaply. It's a bit like buying a Skoda. It will get you from A to B and it's very, very cheap — but it's hardly an Aston Martin."

Tracker Peps are not usually suitable for investors seeking income, since they typically yield little more than 3 per cent. Chris Armstrong, managing director of Norwich Union Trust Managers, said: "If a client wants income, he'd be better off with a balanced trust or a corporate bond Pep."

Norwich Union offers an index fund, but has yet to make it available through its Pep. Neil Liversidge, of DBS, the financial advisory network, is sceptical about the strength of interest in index-tracking Peps. "There's a demand at present because the market's been rising. Wait until the market's fallen heavily or been moving sideways for a long time," he said.

Tracker funds do not quite reduce the choice of Pep to a question of price. Service and understanding the needs of customers are also important. It is in this area that Virgin Direct and Direct Line believe they have most to teach the traditional financial services companies.

With this pension I thee split

The Government may be forced to review its stance on splitting pensions at divorce after a surprise defeat in the House of Lords last month.

The defeat concerned an amendment to the Family Law Bill, which would allow pensions to be split at the moment of divorce, rather than at retirement.

The Government is against splitting pensions in this way, but may be forced to change its mind when the Bill is discussed in the House of Commons because it cannot risk another defeat.

Under new legislation to be introduced in the middle of this year, divorcing couples will have the option of splitting their pensions as part of their divorce settlement. The new legislation, which will be laid out in the Pensions Act, means that any pension will be treated as deferred maintenance.

This new piece of legislation would replace the current arrangements whereby one spouse, usually the wife, keeps the house while the other keeps the pension.

It is aimed at curtailing the numbers of women who rely only on the State to look after them in retirement. Figures show that these numbers are growing rapidly. At present 1.5 million women depend on the State in retirement, compared with 250,000 men.

The practical details of dividing pensions at retirement have not yet been finalised.

Robin Ellison, pensions lawyer and partner in The Divorce Corporation, a company that will value the pension for those getting divorced, said that the draft guidelines under the Pensions Act are "unworkable".

He said: "The new proposals allow for the cash equivalent transfer value to be assessed on the pension member's rights. We think it should be based on the rights of the spouse of the member. This would be a better deal for the spouse."

The Divorce Corporation this week launched a service, in conjunction with the Abbey National, that will try to provide a valuation of the pension in a non-contentious way. At present, when assessing the value of a pension in a divorce case, solicitors usually write to the pension trustees to try to find out what the transfer value of the pension rights will be.

In more complicated cases, they will get an actuarial valuation, which could cost from £800 to £1,600. If there is a dispute between husband and wife about the value of the pension, the costs of valuation could be even higher.

Rebecca Gardiner, a partner in the solicitors Kenneth Elliott and Rowe, said: "There have been a lot of problems in valuation. Nobody really knows on what basis to do it."

She says that using the transfer value method could disadvantage the spouses wishing to base their pension on that amount. Transfer values are inevitably lower than the amount in the fund.

She is encouraging those in the process of divorcing to delay it until after the introduction of the Pensions Act. She said: "Some of our advice to those people in the middle of a divorce would be to wait, especially if there are not any other available assets."

The Government is against pensions splitting at divorce because it claims it will lose out in tax revenue and it believes that couples could be encouraged to divorce because of the tax savings. Pensions splitting could mean that one spouse could drop out of the higher rate tax band and pay lower tax.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Shop around as term assurance premiums take a tumble

In Life's terms ... you're worth about 8 grand less than you think, dear
TERMS POLICY
GED

Competition in the marketplace, and the receding threat of Aids as a mass killer, have sent rates on term assurance, the simplest kind of life insurance cover, tumbling. This means that there are considerable savings to be made.

Choose the right company and you can save more than £8,000 over the policy term. Legal & General, which started the price war last autumn, has just shaved more off its rates to match the latest reductions from Allied Dunbar and Scottish Widows.

Term assurance pays out only if you die within the term of the policy. Homebuyers choosing repayment loans will usually take a term policy which will repay the loan if they die. Buying the policy through the building society has meant that, in the past, borrowers did not shop around for the best-value cover.

"We are seeing an attitude change," says Patrick Bunton, of London & Country, the mortgage broker. "In the past, customers settled with the same bank or building society for ever and a day. Now people are realising that they can look around. It's happened with motor and car insurance. It's happened with mortgages. Now it's happening with life policies."

In spite of fierce competition among insurers, the gulf between the cheapest and most expensive term assurance remains as wide as ever. Premiums can vary from £30.52 to £58 a month on a level term assurance of £100,000 over 25 years for a 40-year-old male. Put another way, getting the wrong company could cost you £8,244 over the policy term. For a 30-year-old male, wanting £50,000 cover for 25 years, monthly premiums range from £7.45 (Legal & General) to £13.70 (Clerical Medical) — a difference over the term of £1,875.

"Many thousands of people are still paying more than they need to for their term assurance," says Mr Bunton. "The problem is that over 60 per cent of life assurance is sold by banks, building societies or tied agents offering only one company's product. Most clients are therefore simply not getting either independent advice or a proper choice."

Since there is not an investment element, policyholders are free to cancel one policy and start another. Premiums have now dropped to the levels they were at in the late Eighties. That means that if you have taken out a policy in the past five years, you should check whether you are paying over the odds. Changing insurers will mean taking out a new policy. Check the rates by speaking to an independent financial adviser before you cancel your current policy because developing health problems in the interim or reaching certain age thresholds can affect premiums.

"You need life insurance if somebody else will be financially worse off as result of your death. That includes a spouse, children, parents left with your debts, or even employers or employees," says Penny O'Nions, an independent financial adviser based in Amersham. "But it is a gamble. If you die during the term, the money will be paid out. If you don't die, you will get nothing back."

Always go for a policy that has fixed premiums. Some of the cheapest policies on the market are reviewed annually, and if the premiums rise each year the policy will no longer be cheap.

Insurers who review premiums include Allied Dunbar, Direct Line and Albany Life. Black Horse reviews policies every five years.

SARAH JONES

TYPES OF COVER

BASIC level term assurance pays a fixed lump sum if you die within a set period, while decreasing term assurance reduces the potential payout as time passes and is therefore often the cheapest cover. Family income benefit, which is also a decreasing term, provides a regular income rather than a lump sum, while convertible policies allow you to switch to another type of policy, such as an endowment, just before the end of the term.

Term assurance can be taken out singly or with a partner. With a joint policy, the payout is usually made only for the first to die. "Joint policies are not cheaper — you are paying for two lives, but only one is going to be paid out," says Diane Saunders, an independent financial adviser in Leeds. "It is far better to take out two single policies."

The difference in premiums between a joint life and two single policies is minimal. For example, joint life cover of £200,000 for a couple aged 25 costs £23.10 a month (Scottish Widows). Single policies would cost £12.53 (Century Life) for the female and £16.30 (Scottish Widows) for the male — an extra £5.73.

A spin-off of the recent cut in term assurance is that companies such as Legal & General say they are selling more critical illness policies. Customers are using the savings from life insurance to buy themselves a greater degree of protection.

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Rebates do little to avert fear of destitute old age

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

As the end of the 20th century approaches, a 19th-century preoccupation will once more begin to fill our minds. Gripped with a Victorian terror of a destitute old age, we will start to be anxious about our pensions.

Instead of worrying about global warming, we will be wondering whether we will be able to afford to turn up the heating to thaw our aged feet.

At present, many have yet to question whether they are saving enough for their retirement. They believe that having a pension, whatever its value, is a safeguard against a Kwik Save lifestyle in their twilight years.

Most assume that their company scheme, or personal pension, will yield a sum infinitely more generous than the basic state pension of £58.85 a week, rising in April to £61.15. But, as we report on page 39, achieving even this low level of income requires a large lump-sum investment of £36,000.

Despite its wish to see the population accumulate more than adequate pensions, the Government is responsible for perpetuating the myth that simply having a pension suffices.

To persuade employees to leave Serps, the additional state scheme, the Department of Social Security offers a sweetener in the shape of a very modest National Insurance rebate. Unfortunately, three million of the five million who left Serps are not making extra contributions to their personal pensions, a calamitous statistic.

Next week, a new range of age-related rebates will be announced with the aim of encouraging those over 40 to stay out of Serps until their retirement. The current rebate system makes it more advantageous for the middle-aged to rejoin the scheme, despite the reductions in its benefits.

These changes present the Government with an opportunity to make clear to those leaving Serps that they must make their own provision. Instead of dwelling on the extraordinary generosity of the rebate, they should stress that it is designed as an incentive, not a full contribution.

This is a pertinent point that ministers have always avoided in the past, in their anxiety to promote universal pensions independence, and to shrink Serps liabilities.

Insurance companies selling personal pensions to those who decamp from Serps should reinforce the message that extra investment is necessary, especially since as much as £1 of every £4 spent on a personal pension can disappear in insurance company charges.

Spend £50 each month on housing and you cannot expect millionaire's row. The same, unfortunately, applies to pensions.

Mutual comfort

A 0.25 percentage point cut in the mortgage rate tends to mean a 0.3 percentage point fall in savers' rates. Those depressed by this glum rule of thumb can find some cheer in the news that societies determined to remain mutual say they will decrease their rates by less than their competitors who are headed for the stock market.

Investment rates at the National & Provincial have been unexciting since the announcement of the takeover by the Abbey National. Investors can expect to receive even less when N&P accounts become Abbey accounts.

A small print paragraph in the 176-page prospectus, a blockbuster read, reveals that Abbey rates are "slightly lower" (and how). By way of compensation, N&P savers will have access to a "more comprehensive branch network". A strange point, given that millions of investors nowadays prefer to save by post. N&P savers will, I think, find more comfort in their free shares.

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The drawbacks of cashback options

Borrowers must be aware of the tax implications, says **Caroline Merrell**

Lenders are offering cashback options of up to £10,000

Mortgages that offer the borrower a large cash lump sum up front may carry an unexpected sting in the tail in the form of capital gains tax.

The possibility of buying a new home and having enough money to furnish it properly has proved an alluring combination for thousands of borrowers. Lenders, in an attempt to increase market share, now offer cashback options of up to £10,000.

The Northern Rock Building Society offers a cashback scheme of up to £9,000. It says that 1,000 people a week are registering an interest in taking out this sort of loan, especially since it began to advertise the scheme on television.

However, borrowers who wish to take advantage of the Northern Rock scheme or similar ones should be aware of the tax implications.

The Inland Revenue points out that, in some circumstances, the lump sum will be liable to capital gains tax. Paying 40 per cent capital gains tax on £9,000 would leave the borrower with a lump sum of £5,400. Taking out a cashback scheme could also push some over their own individual annual CGT exemption of £6,000.

An Inland Revenue spokesman said: "Some of the schemes are liable for capital gains tax and some of them are not." He said that the Revenue would consider each particular scheme on its own merits and liaise with the particular society. For example, National & Provincial Building Society offers a cashback scheme that has a maximum lump sum option of £7,500. The size of the cashback is based on a percentage of the advance.

Phil Reed, National & Provincial spokesman, said that the Revenue position was not entirely clear. He added: "Our feeling is that if it can be shown that it is used for the purposes of moving, then it will not be liable for the tax."

He said that those who benefit from bigger amounts of cash were more likely to have to pay capital gains tax.

The society claimed that those taking a cashback should consider their individual tax position. It said that it advised anyone taking out a scheme of possible tax implications.

The Bradford & Bingley Building Society offers a cashback scheme that will pay out a maximum of £6,000. Bradford & Bingley said that borrowers opting for its scheme should check with their tax office to find out whether they have to pay the tax.

A spokesman said that cashback schemes were decreasing in popularity. He added: "A year ago, cashbacks were at the height of their popularity. Now borrowers are more likely to opt for discounts."

Northern Rock added that it alerted borrowers to the possibility that they may have to pay tax. It added that the television advertisement did not need to carry any such warning.

A game of the name on new fees

The Halifax Building Society, Britain's largest lender, is poised to introduce what it calls a "service fee". Other societies prefer the term "procurement fee", while others like "marketing support fee". These are just a few of the euphemisms used to describe the commission paid to mortgage brokers by societies for placing business with them.

The fees start at about £100 and rise to £250. In some cases, the fee is in proportion to the size of the loan, usually 0.25 per cent.

However, in spite of the move towards greater disclosure of charges on all financial products and the introduction of a code of practice by the Council of Mortgage Lenders, these fees do not have to be disclosed to customers, who will inevitably have to pay them. Those who are aware of the fees can ask their mortgage adviser to disclose them. The potential pitfall in this system of remuneration is that brokers could be tempted to place the business with the lender that pays the highest commission, rather than the one giving the customer the most appropriate deal.

These fees are growing in size and popularity as the squeeze on mortgage lending has meant that societies are more and more dependent on third parties, such as independent financial advisers, for business. Some of the UK's biggest societies estimate that between half and two thirds of their mortgage business comes from third parties.

Halifax declined to say how much of its lending was introduced via this route, saying that such information was commercially sensitive. A spokesman said: "A reasonable proportion of our business is introduced. It is closely monitored, and we are going to introduce a 'service fee programme', which will pay selected intermediaries commission depending on the amount of business they generate."

Ian Darby, marketing director of John Charcol, the mortgage broker, said that fees had grown rapidly. He added: "There are all sorts of different deals on the market. The amount will depend on any added value the broker can bring."

N&P pays "introducers" about 0.25 per cent, as does Bradford & Bingley. Alliance & Leicester pays £100, while Mortgage Trust pays £300.

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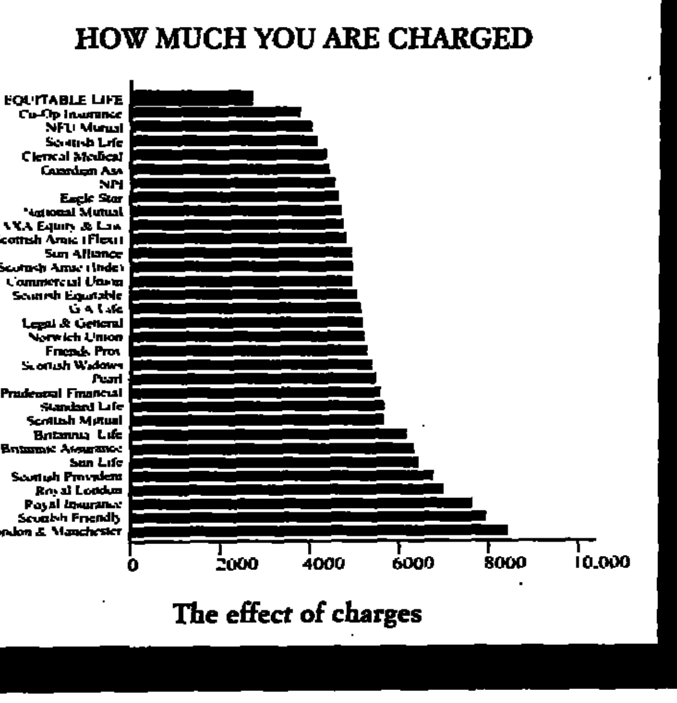

The effect of charges

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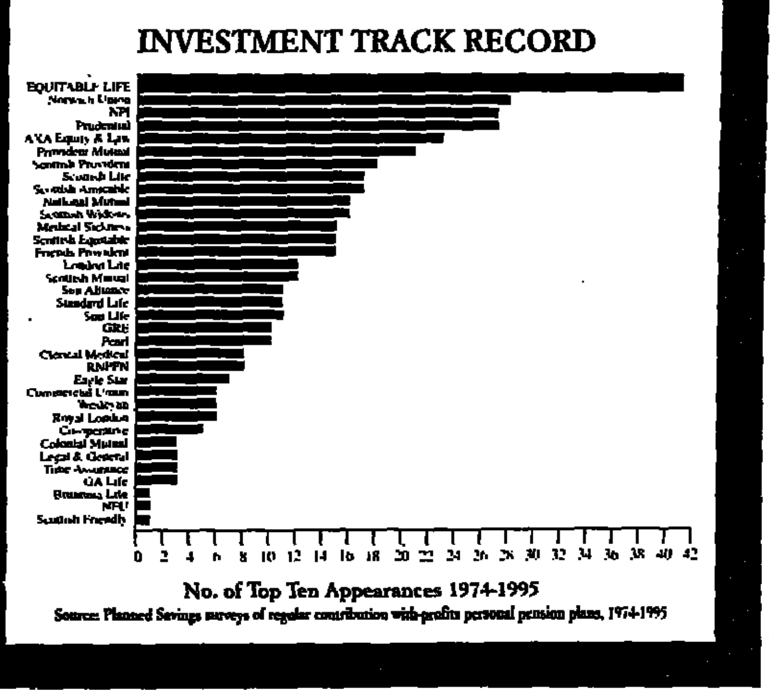

No. of Top Ten Appearances 1974-1995
Source: Planned Savings surveys of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans, 1974-1995

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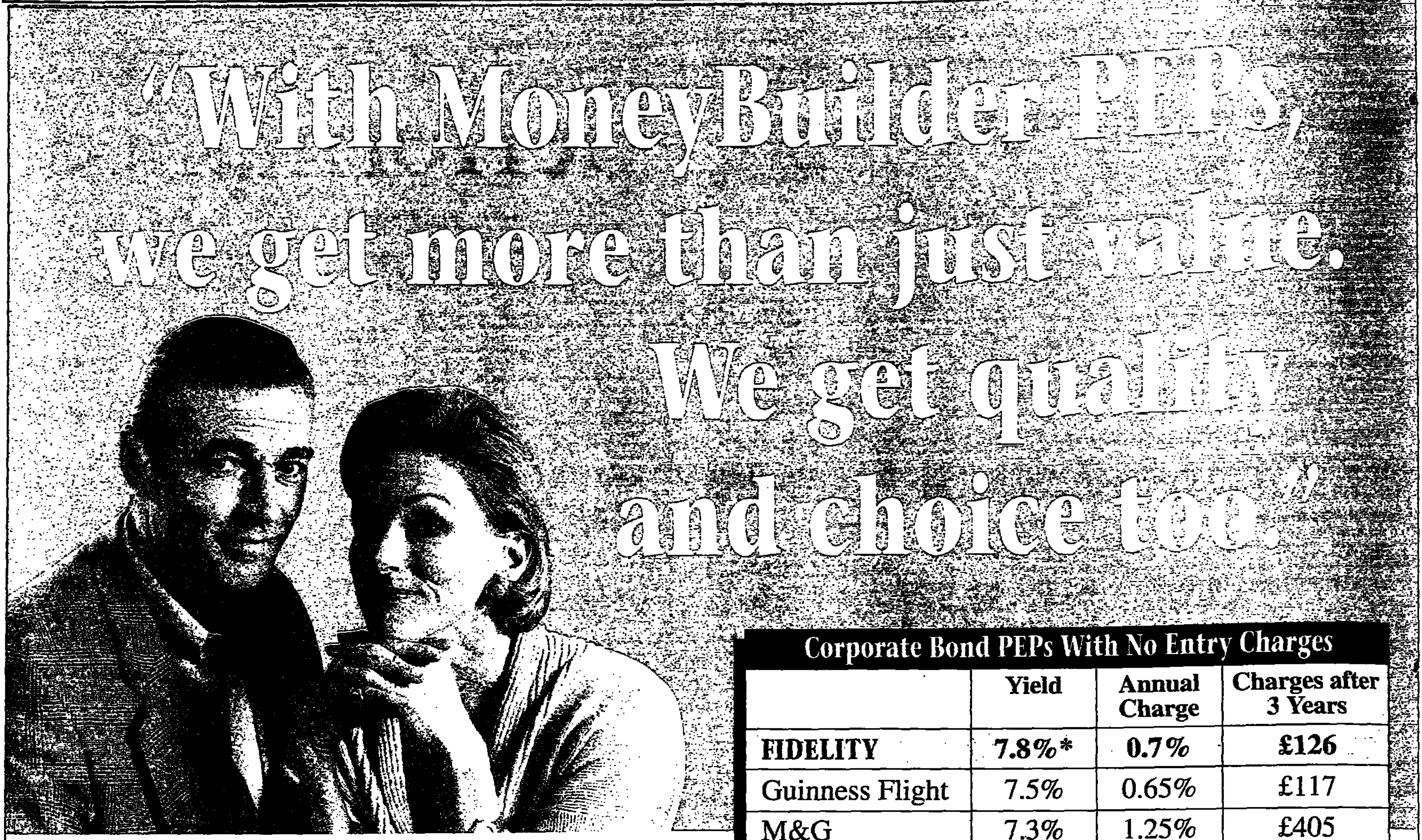
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Marianne Curphey examines the growth in ethical investment

WEEKEND
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Led by your conscience and pocket

Can you serve both God and Mammon? A report published this week pours scorn on the growing number of investment funds that which call themselves "ethical". While applauding investors who want to take a moral stand on where they put their money, it condemns the trend as reflecting "frivolous fashionable causes" rather than serious ethics and says the title is often self-appointed.

Ethical funds, once dismissed as products for cranks, are becoming increasingly popular: last year there was £1 billion under investment in them, three times the figure in 1990.

There are 30 ethical funds in the UK, including two investment trusts. When the first fund was established in 1984 by Charles Jacobs, the fund manager of the Methodist Church's investments, it was expected to attract only £2 million. In fact it now manages close on £500 million.

In theory, these funds enable you to invest only in companies and countries of whose politics and policies you approve. It is also possible to put together your own selection of favoured shares, although you will probably need at least £50,000 in order to achieve a balanced portfolio.

Ethical funds most commonly avoid industries or companies with military connections, those which manufacture alcohol or tobacco, conduct animal experiments, pollute air or water, exploit the Third World, encourage gambling or produce nuclear power or pornography.

Those which make a positive contribution to human life — providing food, clothing, shelter, recycling facilities, waste management, renewable energy, safety and protection equipment or companies with fair wages and equal opportunities policies — are included.

However, the Social Affairs Unit's report is scornful of ethical investment because ethics is "about careful judgments on what people *do* with products". Dr Peter Hodgson, the Oxford physicist, a contributor, says the refusal to invest in the nuclear industry "implies [it] is totally bad, which is absurd. What about the use of of nuclear radiation in medicine? Or nuclear reactors for civil power?"

Nevertheless, while the archetypal ethical investor was once said to be female, between 25 and 44, probably a teacher, doctor or social worker, possibly a Christian, even a vegetarian, ethical investment is heading for mainstream acceptance.

The Ethical Investment Research Service (Eiris) has a list of nearly 30 independent financial advisers who specialise in ethical investments. Eiris provides research both for fund managers of ethical trusts, and individuals. For just over £43, Eiris will assess the ethical credentials of an individual's portfolio of 20 shares, while for £100 it will provide a list of 100 shares which meet your specific investment criteria. The research unit also investigates the alternative investment market, companies in the all-share index and any European or North American company. It does not hold information on Japan or the Far East at present.

Peter Webster, Eiris executive secretary, says information is collated from questionnaires, annual reports and independent research. "If we ask a company whether it has a policy of not testing cosmetics on animals, for example, and we receive no reply, we would assume it does not have a strong ethical stance on that issue."

The first, and one of the largest funds, is the Friends Provident Stewardship unit trust. The best performers include Credit Suisse Fellowship and NPI Global Care Fund.

You can put any of the three into a general personal equity plan. Worries about performance have in the past dissuaded some from going for the ethical option, although most ethical Peps perform reasonably well.

However, their behaviour may be more volatile than the market as a whole because they invest in smaller, newer or more politically sensitive companies.

Pat Meehan, partner in Holden Meehan, a firm of independent financial advisers specialising in ethical investments, says ethical UK trusts have made an average return of 14.94 per cent over the past 12 months — about the same as the rest of the UK growth sector of unit trusts, while internationally they have outperformed the sector by 5 per cent, at 11.6 per cent.

He says: "These funds invest in companies like Marks & Spencer, which is well known for its positive attitude towards its staff, customers and its high quality control."

Ethical funds are not the cheapest on the market. Typically their annual Pep management charge is about 1.25 to 1.5 per cent, the average for unit trust Peps.

Eiris is on 0171 735 1351; Holden Meehan's ethical investment guide is available on 01179 252874.

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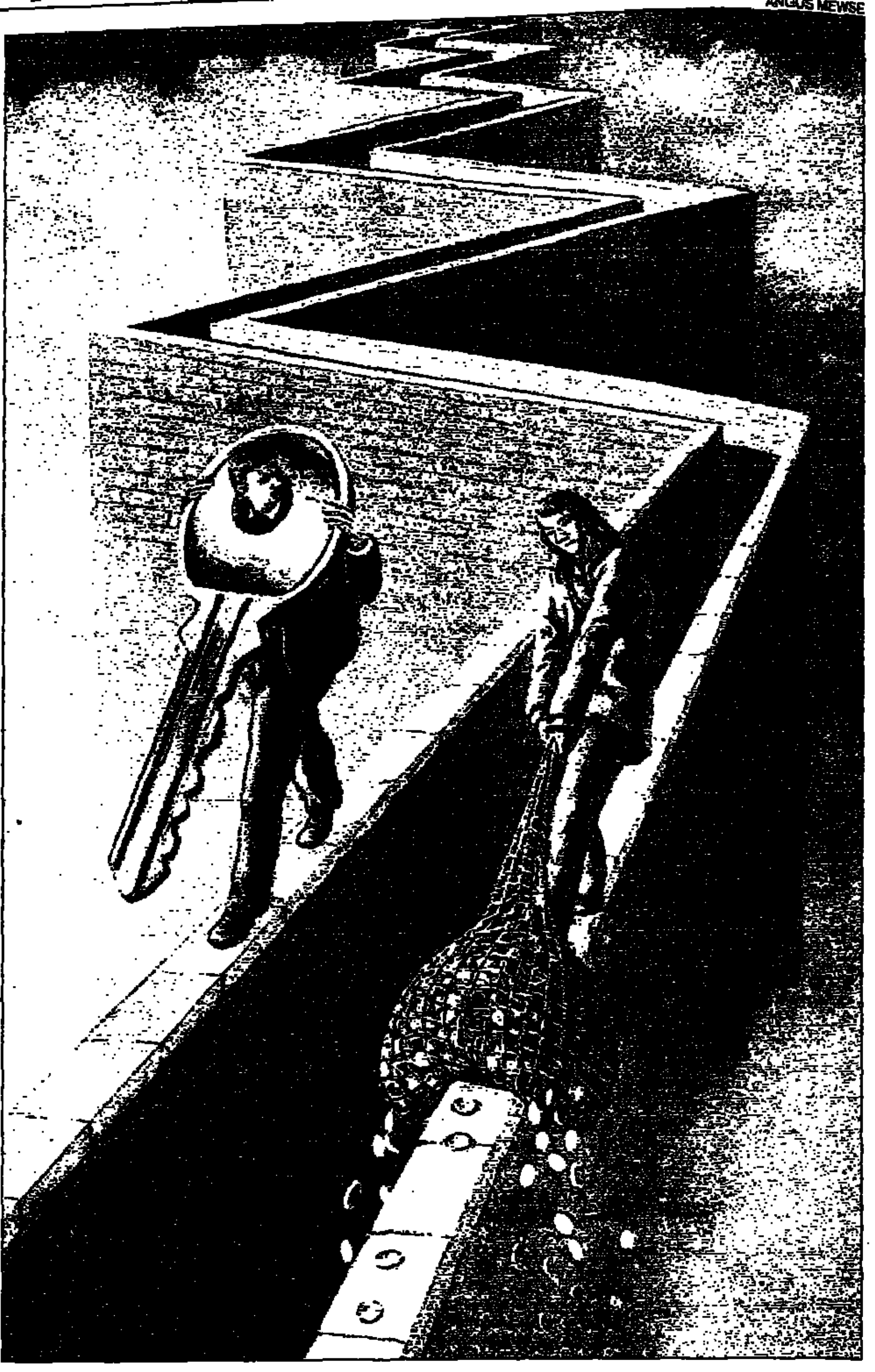
Sara McConnell discovers that people developed a taste for renting during the slump

Where did all the buyers go?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Cheap mortgage money and special deals from desperate lenders have combined to cut the running costs of home loans to levels not seen since the late 1960s. At 7.25 per cent, the current standard variable rate for new borrowers (effective April 1 for existing borrowers) is at its lowest since 1968 and servicing mortgage payments needs an average of just 11.56 per cent of a first-time buyer's gross monthly income, according to the Woolwich Building Society.

With running costs for buyers at an all-time low, renting looks an expensive option. Winkworth, the London estate agent, has calculated that someone buying a house worth £115,000 would face annual running costs of £5,875 a year, including insurance and maintenance costs, while the cost of renting the same house would be £9,230 (see table).

The downside of buying is that the upfront costs are much higher than renting, but Winkworth argues that this should be partly compensated for by capital growth. Simon Agace, chairman of Winkworth, said: "You should bear in mind the compounding nature of appreciation over the years." Winkworth is expecting capital growth in central London this year of 8 per cent, much higher than the 3 per cent assumed in its figures.

But many people who could well afford to buy are still choosing to rent. Rowena Wild, director of lettings at Chestertons, says: "People are renting more than ever. People need flexibility. First-time buyers came under a lot of pressure under the Thatcher regime to be homeowners. But now the more astute person rents for a while, gives a job time to settle down. They can follow a job if they like the area."

During the property boom, anyone who could afford to do so scrambled on to the property ladder before house prices moved beyond their reach then watched their home appreciate by the month. But rising interest rates and the resulting housing slump dealt a swingeing blow to the hopes of millions of homeowners. Those who would normally have bought had second thoughts and rented as they saw people struggling with repossession and negative equity. Rising unemployment and job insecurity made people reluctant to commit themselves to large loans. The supply of property to rent grew as homeowners who had to move but could not sell rented to cover mortgages.

The housing market is finally starting to emerge from the doldrums, but many have discovered that they like renting and letting agents are struggling to meet demand. Ms Wild said: "It is no longer a stigma to rent as it would have been five or six years ago if you said in middle-class circles that you were renting. Now you are considered astute."

Others believe there are more fundamental changes at work in the housing market, which will help to right the existing imbalance in favour of buying at the expense of renting. Many are concerned that the Government's emphasis on wider homeownership in the Eighties pushed people into buying who would have done better to rent.

Marcus Balderston, chairman of the residential lettings and management committee at the National Association of Estate Agents, says some of the continuing demand for rental property is beginning to be satisfied by individuals and companies buying property to rent out, while house prices are low and mortgages cheap. They can get a return of between 5 and 10 per cent on their investment. They are buying up some of the hastily converted and hard-to-sell studios and one-bedroom flats, helping to take some of the slack out of the bottom end of the market. But the estimated 30 per cent of rental homes owned by people wanting to sell will gradually disappear as house prices rise and they get an acceptable offer.

BUYING	RENTING
You buy a house for £115,000, putting down a deposit of £15,000 and taking a mortgage of £100,000 at a rate of 7%. Assumptions are that the property appreciates at 3% a year and that you could have earned 4 % net on your savings if you had not used them for the deposit. Your upfront buying costs including survey, valuation and legal fees are £3,155	You rent the same property worth £115.000. Your rent is £766.67 a month (calculated assuming 8 % of the capital value of the property). You pay one month's rent as deposit in advance. The calculation assumes your tenancy will last a year and that your deposit is returned intact at the end of this time
Annual running costs	**Annual buying costs**
Cost of mortgage: £7,000 (7%) Buildings insurance and repair/maintenance costs: £1,725 Interest foregone on deposit invested in property: £600 Total cost: £9,325 Capital appreciation @ 3% per annum: £3,450 Total annual cost: £5,875	Cost of renting (net): £9,200 Interest at 4% foregone on deposit during year: £30.67 Total annual cost: £9,230.67 **The annual cost of buying is £3,355.67 cheaper than renting**

Neither sum includes utility bills or council tax. The cost of endowment premiums for household purchase has been excluded.

Source: Winkworth

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Karen Zagor on protecting your property from satellites, burglars and high insurance premiums

Take care over alarm

If you are considering installing a burglar alarm system solely to reduce the payments on your home contents insurance, think again. The savings will not be sufficient to recoup the installation costs for many years, let alone the annual service charges.

There are, however, good reasons to install an electronic alarm system if you live in a high-crime area, have an unusual number of valuables or are merely concerned about security. Insurers agree that most intruders are opportunistic. A burglar on the prowl is unlikely to choose the house with the alarm system.

How much you save by installing an alarm will depend entirely on your insurer. Some now insist on burglar alarms before they offer coverage in some areas. If so, you will not get a reduced premium by fitting an alarm. For those who are not required to have alarms, the savings vary enormously. General Accident, for example, offers a 5 per cent discount. Direct Line's discount is 10 per cent, while Commercial Union gives a 15 per cent reduction.

The alarm must be approved by your insurer, or you will get no reduction in premiums. Most insurers do not give discounts for do-it-yourself alarm kits, and many specify that the installation be done by a member of the National Approval Council for Security Systems (Nacoss).

Some insurers, such as Churchill Insurance, will install a security system at no extra charge and then reduce contents premiums. Others will install a cut-price alarm system. Norwich Union charges customers £1 a week for alarm installation under its Oriele plan.

Which system you choose will depend on your needs, and the costs. Telecom Security estimates an average order is £850. That includes an external siren, strobes, passive infra-red detectors and a fire and medical option. The company monitors the alarms itself. Chubb says a basic system could be installed for £700 to £1,000, including a control panel, passive infra-red detector, personal attack buttons and outside alarm sounder.

When choosing an alarm company, remember to ask about annual maintenance charges. You may also have to pay to install an extra phone line for the system and there may be charges to change keyholders (neighbours who have your keys). Some systems only provide the alarm sounder, or charge extra for a police hook-up. A small, local company may offer better deals than the big players.

If your goal is to reduce your insurance premiums, some insurers place more weight on other security measures. General Accident says customers can save up to 40 per cent by joining a neighbourhood watch scheme and passing a free home security check by one of its brokers. Commercial Union offers a 5 per cent discount for belonging to neighbourhood watch. Direct Line's discount is only 2.5 per cent, but fitting approved locks and bolts will save you 5 per cent. Many insurers also offer bonuses to customers who have not made a claim during a specified period.

If you do decide to fit your own alarm, the British Security Industry Association suggests talking to a crime prevention officer first. "I always advise people to start with their crime prevention officer. He will know what he's talking about and he's free," a spokesman said.

Nacoss, Queensgate House, 14 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 8AJ.

RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE

Will insurance cover repairs to damage caused by an invasion from outer space?

Tin hats — and policies at the ready on Tuesday

THE chance of a Chinese satellite crashing into your home on Tuesday is far greater than the odds of winning the National Lottery. The odds of the satellite landing in Britain when it falls to Earth next week are 300-to-1. Unlike other hardware in space, the Chinese satellite is not designed to breakup on entering the Earth's atmosphere.

The good news, for homeowners who happen to be out when the satellite hits, is that many household insurance buildings and contents policies will cover any damage caused by an object from the air hitting your home. Midland Bank said buildings damage would be covered under its general "objects from the air" clause while contents would be covered under "accidental damage".

Direct Line said: "Collision with the building directly caused by any moving object originating outside your home would be covered." General Accident said: "Strictly speaking, a satellite crashing into your home would not be covered because our policy covers aircraft and other airborne devices and a satellite or meteorite being pulled by gravity back to Earth is not airborne. But we would take a sympathetic view if something like this did happen."

Bradford & Bingley said a satellite re-entering the Earth's atmosphere would be classified as an aircraft, and damage covered accordingly. Meteorite damage, on the other hand, would not be included in standard buildings cover. Homeowners would need to extend the policy to include accidental damage.

☐ A study conducted by MORI for Midland Bank shows almost one in three people have no home protection of any kind.

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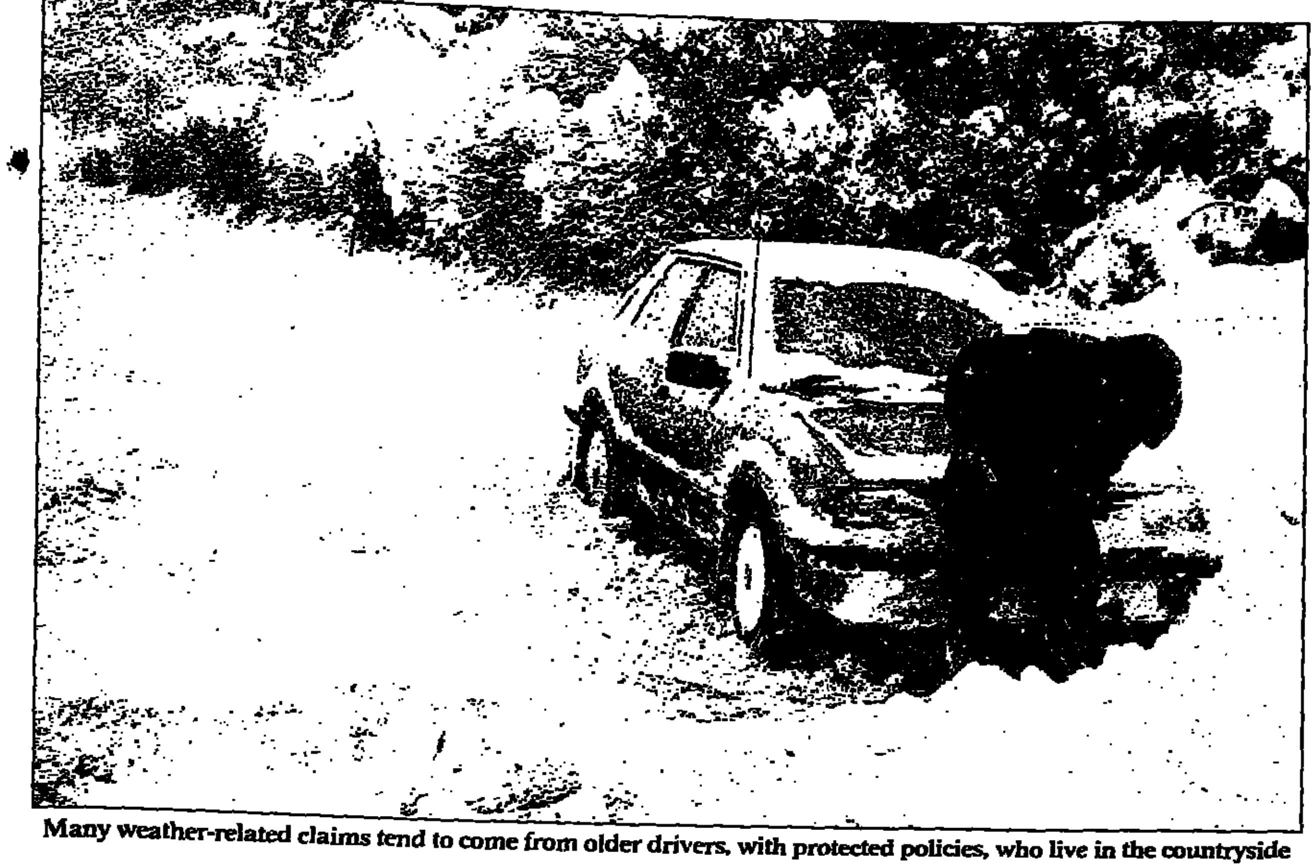

Many weather-related claims tend to come from older drivers, with protected policies, who live in the countryside

Cold comfort for drivers?

Morag Preston asks if the cost of covering a car is about to rise

The motor industry is divided as to whether insurance premiums will rise because of the recent bad weather, after General Accident's announcement last month that its customers face increased costs.

Drivers in provincial towns, who have seen the greatest reductions in premiums, are in line for a 4 per cent increase next month, according to General Accident. The company covers about 5 per cent of the personal motor market and writes 700,000 policies annually, the majority of which are renewed in January.

Rates have been low for the past 18 months, putting pressure on some of the smaller players. In January, Britannic Assurance pulled out of the market after the number of its policyholders fell more than 30 per cent in two years to 26,000, compared with more than two million for Direct Line.

Royal Insurance, the third largest motor insurer, and Direct Line, the largest insurer, are among those that predict an increase in motor premiums. Direct Line said: "We feel prices in the current market are unsustainable at the current level. But we're more likely to look at selective price increases, than across the board." Direct Line's forecast comes after an average fall in premiums across the sector of 5 per cent last year.

Admiral Insurance, direct car insurer at Lloyd's of London, said it is spending 10 per cent more per policy in the first two months of this year, compared with last year, because of the bad weather. David Stevens, pricing director at Admiral Insurance, said: "This is the straw that's going to break the camel's back. Prices have been drifting downwards over the past six months, but they'll soon to be too low for insurers to make a decent profit.

"Weather-related claims tend to be more random than other claims. They tend to come from older drivers living in the countryside with no-claims bonus. These will affect insurers such as General Accident and Direct Line, whereas Admiral tends to quote younger drivers living in cities."

Sandy Dunn, managing director of Touchline Insurance, which has 200,000 policyholders, said: "It is unlikely that rates will go any lower. Premiums should stabilise for at least six months and then gradually rise during the later months of 1996. This rise will signal the beginning of continual increases in rates into 1997 and 1998, although the amounts will be marginal."

However, not everyone in the motor industry agrees there will be an increase in premiums. According to AA Insurance, which is set to launch its own direct operation to rival Direct Line, the first week of January will cost the industry £380 million, a relatively small amount. Mark Wood, managing director at AA Insurance, accuses insurers of trying to talk up rates. "This wouldn't even register on a radar screen. The weather was only bad for a short period of time, during which people usually don't tend to drive."

He added: "Rates have gone lower than they should have done from an underwriting point of view, but they will either stay at that level or go down a little more. There are still people in the market who will keep rates down. A big factor will be the entry of building societies, bringing with them another wave of competitive pressure, which is all tremendous news for the consumer."

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) reports an increase in motor accident claims compared with last year, after the winter cold spell, but says most insurance companies will have made contingencies. "An isolated case of bad weather is unlikely to increase premiums across the board." It emphasises that where premiums might rise, "a lot depends on the individual company's claims experience and the type of policy holder they insure".

The ABI points out that over the past couple of years, there has been a reduction in the number of motor thefts. The cost of private theft to insurers was £499 million in 1993 and £464 million in 1994.

James Wootten, director of Motor Advice, the database service, says motorists can expect a rise in their insurance, but not for 18 months. "Right now, companies are under pressure to drop their rates, but anybody who tries to up them is faced with losing a lot of business as a result."

Mr Wootten outlines how difficult it will be over the next three years for small niche players in a market that has been radically altered by the direct telephone insurers. "There are a number of companies that have to get to a reasonable size in the direct market, or get out of it ... The bigger the operation, the less you are subject to fluctuation. The lower you can quote, the less you have to spend on marketing."

Motor Advice highlights the wide range of quotes for a 30-year-old man, living in London W6, who drives a 1995 Rover 414i, with a maximum no-claims bonus. Guardian Direct quotes £192; Admiral Insurance £298; General Accident Direct £326; and Direct Line £340.

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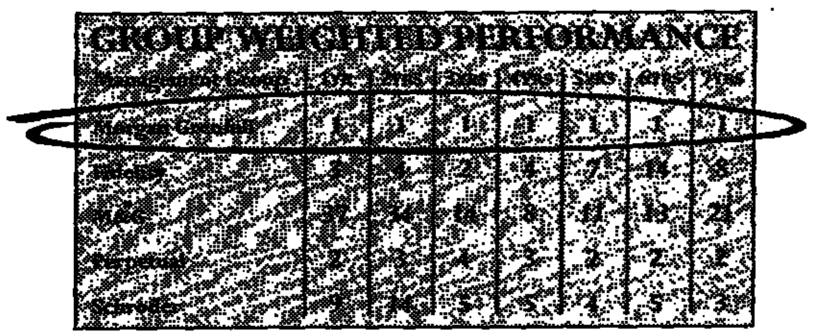
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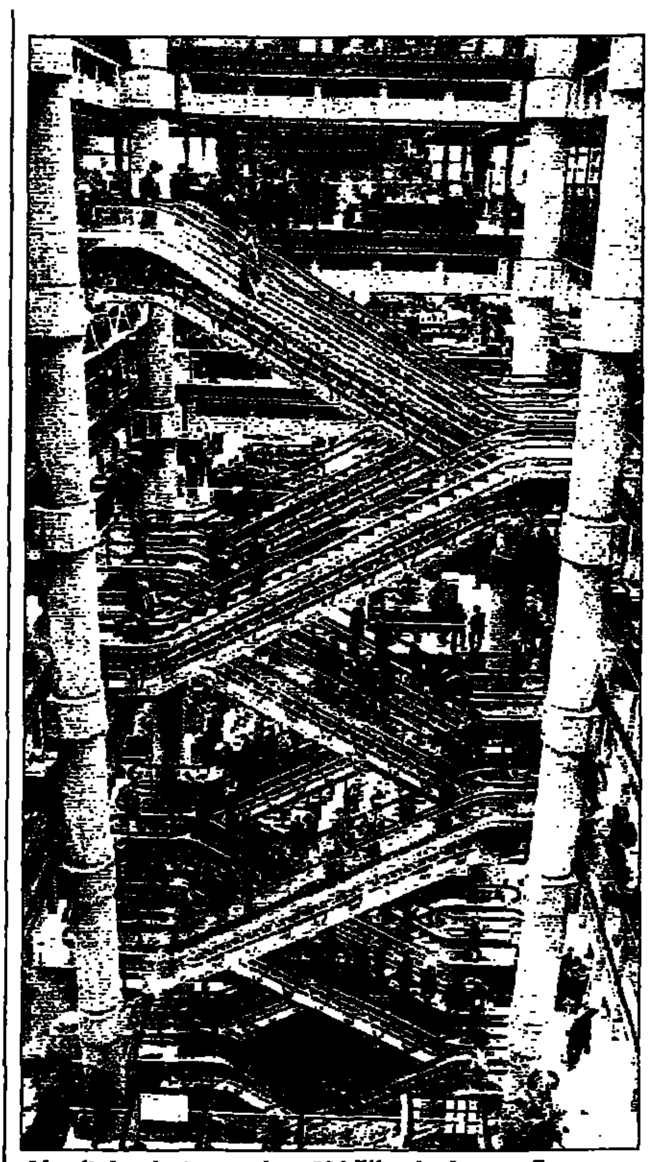

Lloyd's has lost more than £8 billion in the past five years

Make or break time for Lloyd's of London

Names should find out today about their financial future, says

Sarah Bagnall

Today is D-day for some 34,000 names, the individuals who back the insurance market with their own capital. The postman willing, they will learn, for the first time, how much money they need to find to clear their underwriting debts and leave Lloyd's of London for good. Quite simply, it is make or break time for the 300-year-old insurance market.

Names will receive a pack that holds the key to their financial future. The pack comprises four separate statements, a 48-page guide interpreting the statements, and a covering letter from David Rowland, the chairman of Lloyd's.

What does it all mean?

Lloyd's of London has lost more than £8 billion in the past five years and thousands of names have resorted to legal action in a bid to win compensation for their losses. The prospect of years of litigation and the increasing problem of names refusing to pay their debts threatened to destroy the insurance market. As a result, last May, Lloyd's revealed a £2.8 billion reconstruction and renewal plan aimed at resolving these problems so it can start afresh.

The plan involves an £800 million out-of-court settlement and the writing off of £2 billion worth of names' debts.

The pack

The pack, entitled *Indicative Finality Statement*, provides every name with an estimate of how much he or she will have to pay over and above any assets already held at Lloyd's to off-load existing liabilities to Equitas, a new reinsurance company.

This crucial number is at the bottom of page one under the heading "Estimated finality (cost)/surplus taking into account funds at Lloyd's".

For the vast majority of names, this figure will not exceed £100,000. However, the statement is only an estimate and the final figure due out in June may vary. But for 95 per cent of names, the variation will not exceed £15,000.

The statement details the name's share of the £2.8 billion and his or her total liabilities.

Problems paying the finality bill

For many names, finding the money to pay their bills poses a serious problem. There are several initiatives aimed at helping these names.

1. **Tranche 4:** Up to £150 million of the £2 billion of debt write-offs has been set aside to reduce the bills of those who cannot afford to pay. To qualify for a share of Tranche 4 cash, names must apply.
2. **Structured payment plan:** Again, names must apply.
3. **Special mortgage plan:** For many names the fact that their deposits at Lloyd's are to be exhausted raises the threat of having to sell their homes. Names have to have funds at Lloyd's to support their underwriting and, in many cases, the funds are in the form of bank guarantees secured against their homes. As a result, Lloyd's is offering a special mortgage plan for names resident in the UK, which is aimed at preventing the forced sale of homes.

Tax

The reconstruction and renewal plan has numerous and highly complex but important tax implications. The situation for each name varies, depending on the individual's particular situation.

Action names need to take

1. Contact your financial adviser for tax advice.
2. Contact Lloyd's if you want to apply for help under Tranche 4 and it will send you Form Two, which has to be completed by April 27. The application involves a means test.
3. If you are interested in the special mortgage scheme, contact Lloyd's by the end of this month.

There is also a Lloyd's helpline.

Confidentiality

Many names are concerned about providing Lloyd's with any information on their financial affairs that may be used against them if the reconstruction and renewal plan fails. Lloyd's has undertaken that the information will not be used for anything else.

Is the new scheme a once and for all solution to the problem?

That is the idea. The plan is that Lloyd's problems can be put firmly in the past and a new, clean Lloyd's can sail off into the sunset while names can, if they want, leave the market and never be faced with another bill.

In theory, the debts could revert back to names if Equitas is deemed not to have sufficient assets to meet its liabilities.

Can the reconstruction and renewal plan be rejected by the names?

Yes. Names have to vote to accept their individual offer from Lloyd's. It is not known yet what level of acceptance is required for the scheme to go-ahead.

If it fails, what next?

If the plan fails, then Lloyd's will collapse. Views differ on the impact that this will have on names.

Lloyd's has given a warning that names would be ruthlessly pursued by the Department of Trade and Industry for immediate payment of their losses. There will be no chance of negotiating a gentlemanly agreement to delay part of the payment or write off part of the debt.

The opposing argument is that names would be better off because it will be too complicated for policyholders to pursue each individual name for payment of claims. This is wishful thinking rather than reality as liquidators and debt collectors are well-known for their tenacity.

Helpline: 0800 454 787.

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The size of contributions will affect your standard of living, **Helen Pridham** finds

Build up the retirement fund

PENSIONS GUIDE
PART
②

Pension providers never tire of pointing out that the earlier you start saving for your pension the better. But research indicates that we generally save the minimum, but expect the maximum from our pension.

Steve Bee, pensions manager at the Prudential, says: "Most people don't understand the cost of a pension. They think if they save £30 a month it is enough. To put it in context, I usually compare it to the cost of a house because to get a good pension you need a similar size of asset, say a £100,000 fund. Then I ask people what kind of house would you get for £30 a month nowadays. A good pension is more expensive than many think."

If you have a personal pension, or are a member of employer's money purchase scheme, the size of your pension fund at retirement will be the main factor determining how much pension you will receive. The sums you need to generate an adequate pension are significant. Mr Bee says: "Although most people do not think the state pension is worth much [the basic retirement pension is currently £58.85p a week], to get that much pension with your own money today from an annuity you would need to invest a lump sum of £36,000."

One way of starting to work out how much you should be saving for your retirement is to consider how much income you would need if you retired today and then find out what size of fund would be required to generate this level of income. A survey by Barclays Life found that 71 per cent of people would like more than half of their current income during retirement, while 21 per cent believed they would need 90 to 100 per cent of their current salary.

Norwich Union has produced an "underfundometer" to help people to get to grips with the sums. The retirement income you want appears next to the size of fund currently needed to provide that amount. So, if you want an income of £10,000 you would need a fund of £94,088.90 based on Norwich Union's current annuity rates.

Unfortunately, the "underfundometer" does not tell you how much you need to save to build up the required funds. Assuming future growth of 9 per cent, for instance, a 35-year-old would need to save £74.30 a month to accumulate a fund of £100,000 by 65, while a 45-year-old would have to contribute £185.50 a month.

This does not, however, take inflation into account. As Tony Solomon, of Eagle Star, points out: "We do not actually know how much £100,000 will be worth when we retire or what interest rates will be. For example, if inflation averaged 6 per cent over the next 25 years you would need £400,000 to retain the same purchasing power."

The problem of inflation can be partly met with a personal pension by opting for a plan where your pension contributions rise gradually each year either at a given percentage, say 5 per cent, or in line with the retail price index or average earnings.

Another way of arriving at a realistic level of pension contributions is to save a fixed percentage of your earnings. This is the way company schemes work. But members of such schemes cannot afford to be complacent. Very few end up with anything like maximum benefits, which is why additional voluntary contributions should be considered.

For help in assessing your pension contributions you could ask your insurer or an independent financial adviser.

On the right tracks: the younger you start a pension, the more you are likely to receive

PAYMENTS THROUGH THE AGES

THE UNDER 35s
Contributions to a pension scheme made now are the most valuable because they have most time to grow.

☐ Join your employer's pension scheme, if one is available. Your employer will also contribute to your pension.

☐ If you do not have access to a company scheme, start a personal pension but make sure it can adapt to changes.

☐ If you are an employee and do not have access to a company scheme, consider opting out of the state earnings related pension scheme — but check that you are earning enough to make this worthwhile.

THE 35 TO 55s
If you have not started a pension plan, or are not contributing, there is no time to lose. Save as much as you can. Remember, you get tax relief on your contributions.

☐ If you have a personal pension, review your contributions. Have premiums risen in line with salary?

☐ If you have spare lump sums make one-off single premium pension contributions.

☐ Even if you have been a member of company pension schemes, any job changes will have impacted on your benefits. Consider additional voluntary contributions (AVCs), especially if you are considering early retirement.

THE 55s PLUS
Topping up your contributions with lump sums is still worthwhile because of the added tax relief.

☐ With a personal pension, mop up tax relief from previous years when maximum contributions were not made.

☐ Lump sum investments can also be made in AVCs, but cannot be backdated.

WHAT YOU NEED

The "Underfundometer" shows fund sizes required today to buy various levels of retirement income.

Income	Fund size
£5,000	£47,100.84
£7,500	£70,594.87
£10,000	£94,088.90
£12,500	£117,582.90
£15,000	£141,076.97
£17,500	£164,571.00
£20,000	£188,065.03

Source Norwich Union

HOW THE FUND CAN GROW

Age at start of plan of £100,000*	Monthly Premium	Projected Fund Size*	Premium required to build up fund
25	£25	£70,400	£33.75
	£50	£157,000	
35	£25	£29,100	£74.30
	£50	£65,100	
45	£25	£11,300	£185.50
	£50	£25,100	
55	£25	£3,550	£591.50
	£50	£7,810	

*Source: Norwich Union *Assumes investment growth of 9% and retirement age of 65*

CGT ALLOWANCES — JANUARY 1996

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in January 1996

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
January	-	0.818	0.730	0.647	0.561	0.502	0.454
February	-	0.810	0.722	0.634	0.555	0.496	0.448
March	0.891	0.807	0.717	0.619	0.553	0.493	0.443
April	0.853	0.782	0.694	0.585	0.538	0.475	0.420
May	0.840	0.775	0.688	0.578	0.535	0.474	0.414
June	0.835	0.770	0.684	0.574	0.536	0.474	0.409
July	0.834	0.761	0.686	0.577	0.540	0.475	0.408
August	0.834	0.753	0.670	0.573	0.535	0.471	0.392
September	0.835	0.745	0.667	0.574	0.528	0.467	0.386
October	0.826	0.739	0.657	0.571	0.526	0.460	0.372
November	0.817	0.733	0.651	0.566	0.513	0.453	0.365
December	0.820	0.729	0.653	0.584	0.508	0.454	0.362
	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
January	0.353	0.257	0.154	0.108	0.089	0.063	0.029
February	0.343	0.250	0.147	0.102	0.082	0.057	0.022
March	0.337	0.237	0.143	0.099	0.078	0.054	0.018
April	0.314	0.201	0.128	0.082	0.068	0.042	0.008
May	0.306	0.190	0.125	0.078	0.064	0.038	0.004
June	0.302	0.185	0.120	0.078	0.065	0.038	0.003
July	0.300	0.185	0.123	0.082	0.068	0.043	0.007
August	0.297	0.173	0.120	0.081	0.063	0.038	0.002
September	0.288	0.162	0.116	0.077	0.058	0.036	-
October	0.278	0.153	0.112	0.074	0.059	0.034	0.003
November	0.268	0.155	0.108	0.075	0.061	0.034	0.003
December	0.264	0.156	0.107	0.079	0.058	0.029	-

The RI month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Jobless must sign on for NI credits

The Department of Social Security has clarified the position on credits towards the basic state retirement pension during periods of unemployment. These are not only given when unemployment benefit is being received. Barra McGachy, a DSS spokesman, says: "Provided people are available for work and are actively seeking work, that is they are 'signing on', they will get NI credits for the whole period. It has nothing to do with the benefits they are receiving. For men between the ages of 60 and 65, it is not necessary to sign on because credits are given automatically."

■ Most higher rate taxpayers and those who want a higher tax-free income on their investments should consider choosing a venture capital trust, according to the David Aaron Partnership, which has published a guide to this subject. The 24-page booklet compares ordinary investments with Venture Capital Trusts, highlighting the tax breaks and potential returns available. The guide details the 11 current funds on offer, recommending a top seven, and advises on how to select a trust. The most important factor in choosing the right VCT, is the experience of the manager in investing in smaller companies, particularly those with assets of below £10 million, Mr Aaron says. Free copies are available until March 18, and afterwards at £5 per copy. Write to: The David Aaron Partnerhsip, Shelton House, High Street, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, MK17 8SD.

■ RBS Advanta will be adjusting the rate charged on its Visa card from April 1, in line with the base rate change from 6.25 to 6.00 per cent, announced yesterday. The RBS Advanta credit card company, a partnership between The Royal Bank of Scotland and the Advanta Corporation, one of the largest card issuers in the US, launched its Visa card last month. RBS Advanta, which charges no annual fee, has a fixed formula and timescale for calculating their rate in response to all base rate changes. The new APR will be 15.6 per cent, compared with an old rate of 15.9 per cent and the monthly rate will now be 1.22 per cent. For more information, contact RBS Advanta on 0800 077770.

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SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Portman BS 01202 292444	Instant Access	Instant	£100	4.80	Yly
Buckinghamshire BS 01494 873064	Chiltern Gold	Postal	£1,000	5.30	Yly
Co-operative Bank 0345 252000	Pathfinder	Instant	£5,000	5.37	Mly
Direct Line 0181 667 1121	Inst Savings	Instant	£25,000	6.00	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS AND BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Manchester BS 0161 8349465	45 Day	45 day	£25,000	6.55	Yly
Brad & Bingley BS 0345 248248	Direct 90	90 day p	£15,000	6.80	Yly
Brad & Bingley BS 0345 248248	Direct 90	90 day p	£30,000	7.20	Yly
Chelsea BS 0800 272505	120 Account	120 day	£5,000	6.50	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836		5 year	£9,000	7.30	F/Yly
Allied Trust Bank 0171 6260879		5 year	£9,000	7.25	Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0800 717505		5 year	£3,000	7.25	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£25	7.25	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.92%G	11.50%	Nil C
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.00%	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0141 2489966	14.90%E	£114.41	£102.59
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
Clydesdale Bank 0800 240024	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33

Nb. C = no interest free period, D = for debt consolidation only, E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), G = Annual rate 5% above R Fleming base rate, OM denotes interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
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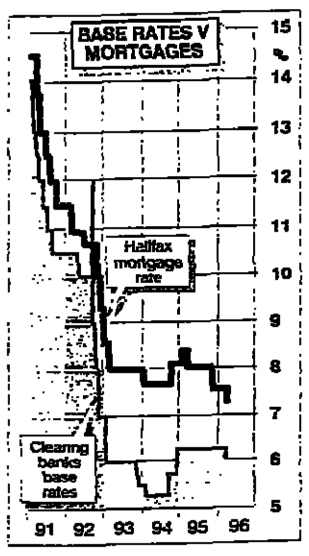
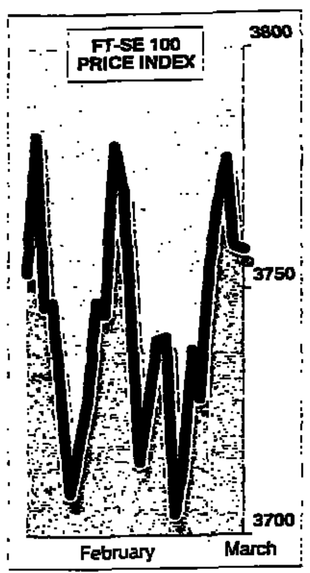
Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c*	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500**	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond*	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-25,000**	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond	6.25	4.68	3.75	1,000-20,000**		01416362558
43rd Issue Cert†	5.35			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	01416362635
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond	6.65	4.98	3.99	100-250,000	8day	01416362603
9th Index Linked†	2.50			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensnrs Bond S3	7.00	5.25	4.20	500-50,000	60day	01253766151

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free. Inst accs for up to £100. ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds. †Tax free. *Rates gross and vble. Guaranteed when held for 5 years. 7.3% net bonus for £20,000 – £100,000 in addition to S1 and S2 holdings. Taxable but paid in full. **Tiered rates apply.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life............Level		£10,022	£11,192	£12,776
Stalwart * ....Level		£10,128	£11,183	£12,297
Prudential..............Level		£10,159	£11,180	£12,556
Royal Life ....Level		£10,034	£11,165	£12,699
Stndrd Lfe ....Level		£9,956	£11,024	£12,416

SINGLE LIFE	Female:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Royal Life ....Level		£9,305	£10,138	£11,364
Prudential ....Level		£9,401	£10,138	£11,219
Canada Life ....Level		£9,193	£10,034	£11,265
Sun Lf of Canada...Level		£9,230	£9,970	£11,063
Stalwart * ....Level		£9,095	£9,926	£10,992

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Female:	Age 60 Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Stalwart * ....Level		£8,990	£9,651	£10,420
Prudential ....Level		£9,020	£9,603	£10,426
Royal Life ....Level		£8,849	£9,488	£10,401
Canada Life ....Level		£8,778	£9,438	£10,372
Sun Lf of Canada...Level		£8,855	£9,429	£10,249
Equitble Lfe ....Level		£8,853	£9,374	£10,093

* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers.
Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at March 6, 1996

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	4.75
	10,000	AIG Life	4.85
	20,000	AIG Life	4.95
	50,000	AIG Life	5.10
2 Years			
	5,000	Fin Assurance	5.25
	20,000	Fin Assurance	5.35
	50,000	Fin Assurance	5.50
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	4.50
	5,000	Fin Assurance	5.50
	20,000	Fin Assurance	5.60
	50,000	Fin Assurance	5.75
4 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	4.70
	5,000	Fin Assurance	5.75
	20,000	Fin Assurance	5.85
	50,000	Fin Assurance	6.00
5 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.10
	3,000	Fin Assurance	6.20
	20,000	Abbey Life	6.40
	50,000	Abbey Life	6.60

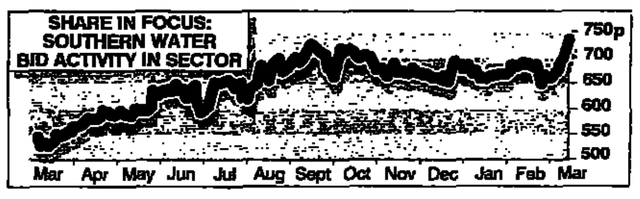
Source. Chamberlain de Broé 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	97.72	9.586	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	119.99	9.677	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	134.60	9.644	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	138.58	9.633	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	133.13	9.749	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	126.99	9.524	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	114.37	10.266	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	93.71	9.338	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	125.43	9.366	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	144.83	9.381	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	138.07	9.669	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	114.96	9.338	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	134.83	9.346	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	136.85	9.205	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	135.57	9.478	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/03-28/09)	9.24766%	103.63	100.00	1,000
First Nat(20/03-20/09)	9.30000%	100.63	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.95	£15k+	90	Fixd to 31.1.97
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	0.99	to £100k	90	6.25% discount to 1.5.97
Yorkshire 0800 378836	1.39	to £150k	95	6% disc-6 mths, 2% disc-18 mths
Banks				
Barclays 0800 494999	3.74	£15k+	90	3.75% discount for 12 months
Midland 0800 400999	1.99	£15k+	90	5.50% discount for 12 months

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.70	£15k+	90	Rate fixed to 30.11.96
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.35	to £150k	70	7.14% discount for 9 months
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.25	to £150k	70	Rate fixed for 1 year
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.75%dsc-6 mth, 3% dsc-6 mths
Nat West 0800 400999	2.49	£15k+	90	5.50% discount for 12 months

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.95	£15k+	95	6.54% disc 6 mth, 2.50% disc 6 mths
Halifax 01422 333333	2.25	no min/max	95	5% discount to 30.4.97
Brad & Bingley 01274 555555	3.44	£30k+	95	3.80% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.75% discount for 6 months
TSB Bank 0500 758000	3.75	£15k+	95	3.74% discount for 1 year

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE
Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 0171 538 8900

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	525.50	556.10	+1.10	
Uk Equity	662.40	701.20	+4.70	
Property	518.50	548.70	+0.70	...
Fixed Interest	357.30	378.10	+0.80	...
Money	262.70	278.00	+0.20	...
International	463.90	490.90	-2.80	...

ABBEY LIFE
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL
01202 292373

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Custodian S4	187.40	197.30	+0.40	..
Ethical S4	152.00	160.00	+1.70	..
International S4	216.10	227.50	-0.50	...
Protected Gth S4	120.10	126.50	+0.20	...
Asian Pacific	218.00	229.50	+0.20	..
European S4	199.80	209.80	-0.40	.
Prop Fd Ser 4	374.60	394.40	..	.
Equity Ser 4	254.40	267.80	-2.30	.
Man Ser 4	746.70	786.10	-3.00	.
Conv Ser 4	344.40	362.60	+0.20	...
Money Ser 4	344	362.20	+0.30	..
Fixed Int Ser 4	370.80	390.40	+0.40	.
American Ser 4	615.30	647.70	+10.30	..
High Inc Ser 4	775.60	816.50	+2.50	..
Indexed Int Ser 4	222.50	234.30	+1.50	..
Japan Ser 4	356.80	375.60	-6.80	.

ALBANY LIFE
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ
01707 42311

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Fd Acc	1792.80	1887.10	+11.90	...
European Fd Acc	428.00	450.50	-0.10	
Fixed Int Acc	543.90	572.50	-19.00	...
Gtd Money Acc	350.80	369.20	+0.20	..
Intl Managed Acc	693.20	729.60	+2.50	.
Int Fxd Int Acc	362.20	381.20	+0.30	.
Japan Fund	261.80	275.50	-3.70	..
N American Acc	396.00	416.80	+5.00	..
Prop Fd Acc	456.50	481.50	+0.40	...
Multiple Ins Acc	1164.60	1225.80	+4.10	

ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE
Swindon SN1 1EL
01793 514514

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Fxd Int Dep Acc	392.00	412.70	+0.30	...
Equity Acc	1634.50	1720.60	-5.40	...
Property Acc	612.70	645.00	+0.40	..
Far East Acc	347.30	365.60	-1.40	
Managed Capital	591.60	624.90	-1.80	..
-do- Acc	1247.90	1313.60	-3.70	
Overseas Acc	1101.40	1159.40	-3.30	..
Gilt Edged Acc	523.90	551.50	+0.20	
Amer Equity Acc	1034.10	1088.60	+15.10	.
Amer Man Acc	435.40	458.40	+5.90	...
Amer Prop Acc	117.50	123.70	+0.20	.
Distribution Bonds	24.40	25.70	...	

AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks
01494 463463

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Reserve Ser 6	171.00	180.00	..	
Balced Ser 6	818.10	861.10	-1.60	..
Opportunity Ser 6	187.20	197.00	+0.40	.
Distribution Ser 6	102.40	107.70	+0.50	7.76
UK Equities Ser 6	1155.00	1215.70	+4.50	..
Higher Inc Ser 6	1206.70	1270.20	+4.20	.
North Amer Ser 6	602.20	633.80	+14.60	
Far East Ser 6	616.20	648.80	-5.20	
Europe Ser 6	457.50	481.50	+2.00	.
Intnl Ser 6	671.70	707.00	...	.
Property Ser 6	579.40	609.80	+0.40	.
Fixed Int Ser 6	475.50	500.50	-0.50	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	190.20	200.30	+1.10	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	312.70	329.10	+0.30	..

BARCLAYS LIFE
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB
0181 534 5544

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Acc	1080.80	1141.90	+8.00	...
-do- Initial	625.70	658.70	+5.00	.
Gilt Edged Acc	414.70	436.60	+3.00	.
-do- Initial	264.50	278.50	+1.90	...
International Acc	456.10	480.20	-0.10	...
-do- Initial	289.00	304.30	-0.10	...
Managed Acc	599.50	631.10	+3.00	...
-do- Initial	381.20	401.30	+1.90	...
Money Acc	305.80	321.90	-0.30	.
Property Acc	307.50	323.70	+0.20	..
-do- Initial	194.50	204.80		...
America Acc	361.50	380.60	+4.60	..
Australia Acc	245.90	258.90	-5.50	...
Financial Acc	430.80	453.50	-1.10	.
500 Accum	502.40	528.90	+5.10	...
Japan Genl Acc	306.40	322.60	-8.90	...
Income Acc	598.50	630.00	+6.00	...
Leisure Acc	307.90	324.20	+5.10	...
Special Sits Acc	294.80	310.40	+3.40	...
Units Tech Acc	182.60	192.30	+0.40	.

BLACK HORSE LIFE
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF
01634 834000

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
The Managed Fd	913.56	913.56	+6.49	..
Income Fund	857.71	902.89	+7.26	...
Extra Income	782.61	823.80	+6.51	..
Worldwide Gth	557.80	586.95	-2.88	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Uk Opportunity	219.20	231.90	..	..
Euro Opportunity	248.20	262.60	+0.30	..
North Amer Opp	211.30	223.50	+1.10	...
Far East Opp	222.70	235.60	-1.20	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	161.00	169.41	+0.80	..
Gth Prop Ser 2	196.80	208.20	-0.30	...
Fixed Int	213.60	226.00	+1.40	..
Cash	165.50	175.10	+0.10	6.49
Overseas	232.10	245.60	-1.90	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	400.10	421.20	+2.40	..
UK Equity	671.30	706.70	+6.80	..
Property	267.80	281.90	+0.40	...
Money Market	264.00	277.90	+0.10	...
Fixed Interest	315.90	332.50	+2.60	...
Japan	358.00	376.90	-6.30	...
North America	195.70	206.00	+0.90	...
International	370.90	390.50	-2.70	.
European	325.30	342.40	-0.50	...
Far East	160.30	168.80	-0.90	...

CANADA LIFE
2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA
01707 51122

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Growth I	277.80	...	...	...
Managed	379.90	399.90	+3.60	...
Property	249.40	262.60	+0.10	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	258.60	272.30	+2.00	...
Equity	434.90	457.80	+5.20	...
Cash	225.60	237.50	-0.10	...
CLife Euro Mgd	440.80	464.10	+1.20	...
CLife Intl Fd	407.30	428.80	-0.20	...
Managed Fund	814.10	856.90	+0.60	...
Property Fund	518.70	546.00	-0.60	.
Equity Fund	1082.50	1139.50	+2.30	...
Gilt Edged Fd	661.70	696.50	+3.20	...
Deposit Fund	351.30	369.80		...
Investment Fd	462.20	486.30	+0.90	...
International	626.40	659.40	-2.70	..

CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE
Senlry House, 500 Avebury Blvd.
Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property Fund	166.30	175.10	...	...
Managed Fund	718.10	755.90	+5.90	...
Equity Fund	418.40	440.50	+5.70	..

CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566
Assurance Funds

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Sapphire Mixed	329.50	346.90	+0.50	...
Ruby	198.30	208.80	+0.21	..
Emerald	153.20	161.30	+0.30	.

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bristol & West (2) I	103.30	...	+0.10	..
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) I	101.60	...	+0.20	..
Secure (2) I	101.20	...	+0.10	..
Managed (2) I	103.90	..	-0.50	..
Equity Mnged (2) I	104.60	...	-0.60	...
Adventurous (2) I	105.20	..	-0.20	...
Bristol & West (2) I	101.50	...	+0.20	...

EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND
60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Eagle/Mid Uts	335.10	347.20	+3.40	2.64

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH
01722 413366

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed	349.40	367.80	+5.30	..
UK Equity	471.10	495.90	+4.30	..
Stewardship	415.60	437.50	+6.80	...
Overseas Equity	330.80	348.30	+1.30	...
North American	186.90	196.80	+3.40	...
Pacific Basin	181.70	191.30	-0.70	...
European	272.60	287.00	+1.30	..
Property	181.30	190.90	+0.20	..
Fixed Interest	254.80	268.30	+0.90	...
Index Linked	176.80	186.20	+1.30	...
Cash	210.90	222.00	+0.20	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	578.70	609.10	+5.10	...
Managed	781.60	822.70	+10.00	..
Deposit	358.90	377.70	+0.30	...
Property	476.10	501.10	+0.60	...
American	525.60	553.20	+9.10	
Australian	610.60	642.70	-7.70	.
European	660.00	694.70	+2.90	..
Income Acc	852.20	897.00	+9.60	..
-do- Dist	490.10	515.80	+7.00	4.90
International	357.10	375.90	+1.70	...
Japan Smaller	454.00	477.80	-3.90	...
Singapore & Mal	451.60	475.30	-0.10	..
Smaller Cos	471.30	496.10	+5.90	...
Tokyo Fund	659.60	694.30	-14.00	...
UK Equity	658.70	693.30	+14.20	..
CCM Vangd Mg	860.00	905.20	+8.20	.

GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
GT Plan Far East	341.20	359.20	-4.60	...
GT Plan Wwide	545.90	574.70	+1.00	...

GAN LIFE & PENSIONS

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Gilts and equities sharply lower

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	476½	Allied Domecq	503	-9	5.9	18.2
564	380	Bulmer (HP)	562		2.7	17.6
146	99	Burn Stewart	119		5.3	25.6
467	352	Grand Met	425	-8	4.4	18.3
536	404	Guinness	482	-8	3.8	14.3
445	315	Highland Dist	361		2.7	16.4
217	157	Macallan-Glen	162		1.0	35.0
710	600	Mordn Mtn 'A'	635		2.1	17.9
703	532	Matthew Clark†	702	+3	3.9	.
140	61	Mrydyn W	105		2.4	.
2612½	1287½	SA Breweries	2300	-12½	1.5	32.8

BANKS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3162¾	2137½	ABN-AMRO	3084½	-12½	4.1	11.6
663	413	Abbey Natl	565	-6	4.8	10.8
385	250	Allied Irish	341	-3	4.2	.
336	198	Aus New Z	311	+2	5.3	
5075	2531¼	Bank America†	4975	-31¼		
316	191½	Bank Scotland	285½	-6	2.9	11.7
819	557½	Barclays†	733	-19	4.4	8.5
486	298	Bk of Ireland	453	-6	3.7	9.1
535	418	Cater Allen	461	-1	8.1	7.6
5312½	2450	Citicorp	5225	-50		
392	216½	Close Bros	379		3.0	16.7
£162¾	£129¼	Commerzbk	£150¾	-121½	3.5	
1375	993¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1196½	-12½	0.4	
3375	2775	Deutsche Bk	3288¾	-84¾	2.2	..
881¼	568¾	Espirito Santo	768¾	-16¾	4.7	10.2
1611	1138¼	Fuji Bank Y	1288	+12¾	0.4	.
490	395	Gerrard Nat	416		6.8	13.4
253	180	Hambros	218	+3	4.3	...
1125	580	HSBC	1047	-30	3.9	11.8
1090	578	HSBC Hk	1023	-29	4.0	11.6
421	228	Irish Perm	399	-2	3.2	
463	353	Joseph (L)	450		5.2	15.5
165	85	King Shaxson	154	-1	7.3	12.0
350	303	Lloyds TSB†	318	-4	3.1	17.1
640	479	Nat Aust Bk	609	+1	6.9	8.1
711	454	Nat Westm	667	-16	4.7	9.3
67	44	Rea Brothers	60		2.1	24.0
639½	373½	Royl Bk Scot	546½	-6½	3.7	12.4
1478	905¾	Schroders	1368	-5	1.4	18.1
1180	823¼	Schroders N/V	1000	-3	1.8	14.2
113	81	Singer & Fried	108	-1	4.3	11.2
662½	246	Stand Chart	615	-10	2.3	13.3
121	70	Union†	107		3.7	.
£169	9043¾	Wells Fargo	£162¾	-118¾	1.9	
317½	211	Westpac	294½	+½	4.8	
305	200	Wintrust†	304		4.8	17.4

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
60	35	Aberdn Stk HD	40			8.7
368	143	Ascot Hldgs	340			0.7
770	487	Bass	762	-4	3.7	17.5
497	339	Boddington	481		2.4	24.7
76	42	Brit for the Bdr	63		3.3	16.5
192	137	Burtonwd Brw	172½	-1½	3.9	16.7
97	70½	City Centre Rest	94½		2.6	18.3
501	305	Compass Grp	498		1.9	22.0
257	137	Eldridge P 'A'	256		2.2	23.6
475	335	Fullr Sm 'A'†	471		2.3	18.6
614	402	Greenalls Grp	567	-9	3.1	15.4
658	468	Greene King	630		2.8	15.5
278	140	Grosvenor Invst	248		2.8	26.4

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
483	345	Brammer	479	+4	3.5	18.4
22	10½	Bridgend Gp	21		1.2	
96	78	Brit Fittings	80		5.0	12.1
270	215	Caffyns	260		5.5	17.9
14	9	Coresdale	11½	-¼	3.0	7.6
88	54	Central Mr	68		0.9	
94	70	Charles Sidney	80	...	5.8	12.6
61	35	Cook (DC)	35		3.8	8.1
337½	220	Cowie	336	-1½	4.0	12.5
155	123	Dag Motors	133		7.3	10.2
150	125¾	Dennis G	150		2.1	13.5
501	375½	Diploma	430	+1	4.2	14.0
370	235	Electrocomponents	344	-6	2.2	33.3
314	153	Eurodis Elec	292	-5	1.9	27.1
235	64	Eurodollar	102	-1	9.6	6.1
120	76	European Mtr	80	-2	8.1	6.9
449	280	Evans Halshaw	311		6.2	9.6
630	603	Farnell Elect▲	622	-5	2.0	18.1
72	48	Fife Indmar	63		6.4	10.3
24½	15	Gardiner†	22	-½	4.8	
58	16	Glenchewton	55	-1	0.7	
108	61	Gowrings	88		3.2	14.6
245	148	Harris (Philip)	245		3.8	15.6
224½	137	Headlam▲	220		2.4	20.0
609	258	Healys	508	-11	2.5	.
137	81	Holders Techno	138		5.5	25.9
185	88	ISA Intl	184		1.6	
430	200	Inchcape	267	-3	7.0	24.2
66	33	Jacks (Wm)	43		2.2	8.2
198	142	Kwik-Fit	195	-1	2.9	16.7
358½	264½	Lex Service†	316	-3	5.9	11.5
193½	119	Lookers▲	131		7.9	
22	8	Malaya Grp	14	-1½	6.0	
9¼	5	Middlesex©	8		0.8	18.4
71	31	Mosstates	37			5.2
534	330	Nortrain	493	+1	1.9	16.7
268	78	Northumbr	254	-1	0.9	20.4
162	135	PCT©	149		6.5	10.6
291	225	Pendragon	286	-1	4.0	
166	123	Perry Gp	150	+2	6.4	11.3
148	126	Quicks Group	148		4.9	12.6
198	160	REA	186		2.6	23.2
3¼	2¾	Rence	2¾			
73	48	Ronson	51		3.1	10.4
6½	2	Ross Gp	3½			
63½	37½	SEP Indl	52½	-½	3.8	12.3
17½	8½	Saltire	14			8.0
275	226	Time Products	275		4.2	16.1
59½	28	Torex Hire#	31		5.4	
275	151	Verity (Reg)	275		2.7	15.2
358	240	Wholesale Fitgs	356		4.2	18.9
80	39	Wilshaw	42½		2.4	10.1
118	56½	Wykel	105	-3	2.1	..
125	68	Young (H)	125	+1	3.9	14.8

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2	0¼	Anglo Utd	0½			
388	235	Antofagasta	383		1.5	18.0
958	728¼	Broken Hill	935	-3	2.7	30.6
348	291	BTR	324	-1	5.3	14.1
586	405	BAT	557	-12	5.6	11.0
270½	144	Berisford Intl	185	-3	2.0	18.0
131	71	Bibby (J)	115	-3	6.2	9.3
58	40½	Brierley Inv	57		8.0	3.0
948	743	Charter	838	-4	3.7	13.5
318	185	Cookson	305	-5	3.3	17.4
161	135	Cosair	153		7.1	9.7
157	119½	Ferrner	147		3.1	14.4
153	100	Grampian Hdg	120	-1	5.7	14.6
247½	179	Hanson†	186½	-3	8.0	9.3
172½	136	Harrisn Crsfld	168	-3	6.7	17.8

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
236	180	Quadramatic	234	-1	4.4	14.5
31	15	Quartont Grp	15		2.1	41.9
73	60	Radiant Metal	65			
68	36	Ransomes	67		...	18.6
86	56	Record	56		8.0	11.2
297	180	Renold	270		7.5	15.3
58	33	Richards Group	33		8.5	9.8
99	66	Richardson West	79		5.5	13.0
219	148	Rolls-Royce	210	-5	3.0	24.7
190	158½	Rotork	188	-1	3.3	17.9
183	143	Rubicon†	170		4.0	16.9
1481¼	1034¾	SKF 'B'	1416¾	-21½	3.6	...
114	67	Senior Eng	106	-1	4.1	37.5
209	49	Shield-Ave	208	+10	1.9	
856	498	Siebe†	883	-4	1.9	23.0
99	67	Simon Eng	83	+1		
196	79	Six Hundred	194	+1½	1.4	13.9
697	423	Smiths Ind	680	-6	2.6	21.6
651	431	Spirax-Sarco	649	-2	2.3	30.4
309	227	Sterling Ind	308		3.2	14.9
497	338	TI	482	-6	3.2	22.6
102	82	Tinsley (EK)	96		7.4	14.0
101	51	TransTec	80	-1	1.9	
184	127	Triplex Lloyd	162	-1	5.4	12.0
150	133	Unicorn Ind	143		4.8	11.9
18	14	Utd Inds	15		3.1	12.0
15½	5	Verson	13½			
302	162	Vickers	264½	+4½	3.2	16.7
14½	8½	Villers Grp	13½			
754	506	Vitec	751	-2	1.6	19.2
968	722	Vosper Thorny	825	-2	3.3	15.0
516	389	Wagon Ind	400		6.0	11.5
293	189	Weir	243		3.7	20.5
256	186	Wellington Hdg	230		3.6	17.6
58½	36	Wellman	46½	-½	4.4	10.2
509	363	Whatman	378	-3	3.8	12.1
143¾	80	Widney†	80		5.4	9.3

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
175	109	Adwest	113	-1	8.6	9.1
294	153	Airflow Stream	275		3.6	6.4
563	440	Avon Rubber	563		3.9	13.7
72½	49½	BSG	64½		6.2	13.6
340	273	Bostrom	300	+15	2.6	16.6
29	17	Bounstead†	25½		4.7	
357	180	ERF	188		3.8	11.1
509	370	First Tech	440		2.1	15.7
898	543	GKN	893	+16	3.4	18.1
3568¾	2343¾	General Mtr	3437½	+25	3.0	
1481¼	848	Honda Motor	1340¾	+12¼	0.6	
448	304	Laird	423	-1	3.4	18.1
445	345	Loadwst	445		0.3	
212	183	Lucas	192½	-1½	4.5	98.7

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
277½	211	Brunner	270	-4	2.7	43.0
136	115	BZW Conv	134½	+1	7.9	15.4
508	318	Candover	490	...	3.4	
62½	34½	Central Euro Gwth	61½	-½	0.9	
205	161	Contl Assets	204	+3	1.8	
88	68	Dartmr Inv Inc	68		14.7	7.9
345	278	Derby Cap	330	-3		
168	143	Derby Inc	143		16.9	7.4
744	617	Dunedin Inc G*	704	-9	4.8	25.1
91	73	Dunedin Japan	86½	-½		
333	296	Dunedin Smlr	331	+2	3.4	42.5
42	18	Dunedin Wts	18½			
867	678	Dunedin Wrlde	828	-12	1.4	72.2
115½	82¾	Edin Dragon	111	-1½		
43½	21½	Edinburgh Incs	27½	-½		
345	281	Edinburgh	331½	-6½	3.6	32.0
176	127	EFM Japan	152	-2		
379	307	Electra Inv	378	-2	2.5	60.0
245	180	Electric Gen	236	-3	1.8	62.7
152	108	English Scot W	147	-1		
388	273	European Asset	388	+1	1.6	
209	147½	Fidelity Euro Val	207½	-½	0.3	
83	62¾	Fidelity Jap Val	73½	-½	0.2	
109	81	Fidelity Spec Val	107½	-½	0.6	
179	148	Finsbury 'A'	179		3.4	57.6
90	82	First Spanish	89		0.4	
338	267	Fleming Amer	285	-5½	1.1	
74	51½	Fleming Chinese	62½	-1½	1.0	73.3
44	20	Fleming Ch Wts	33½	-2¼		
269	198	Fleming Claver	266	-3	2.9	
387	288½	Fleming Contl	385	-1	1.1	
160	125	Fleming Em Mkts	153	-1½		
258	199	Fleming Enterp	251		2.6	46.5
386	278½	Fleming F East	368½	-3½	0.5	
409	327	Fleming Fledg	409		0.9	
105	90	Fleming Hi Inct	101	-½	5.7	21.0
87	51½	Fleming Indian	60½	-1		
46	24	Fleming In Wts	37½	-2		
43	29	Fleming Intl	40½	-½	11.6	11.1
280	203	Fleming Japan	254½	-2½		
303	252½	Fleming Merc	298½	-1	3.0	43.3
114	72½	Fleming Nat Res	104	-1	0.6	
366	269	Fleming Overst	348½	-5½	1.6	61.4
168	124	Foreign & Col	160	-2¼	1.5	73.9
113	91	For & Col Inc Gwth†	101	-1	4.0	29.7
120½	93	Frgn Emrg Mkts	109¾	-½		
91	67½	Frgn Enterprise†	90½		1.7	
287	204½	Frgn Eurotst	286½		0.5	
142	115	Frgn German	135	-1	0.5	
204½	137¼	Frgn Pacific	192	-1½	0.9	76.9
138	120	Frgn PEP	136	-1	3.5	31.7
184½	153	Frgn Smaller	183½	-½	1.5	75.5
139	90	Frgn US Smlr	135	-3		
24	16	Fulcrum Cap	16½			
46	33	Fulcrum Inc	33			3.2
164	141	Fulcrum Zero	162	-½		...
222	188	Gartmore Brit	212	-1	4.3	

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
67½	49	INVESCO Tokyo	54½	-½		
99	69½	J Fry 2nd Ut	71		12.0	8.9
94	71	J Fry Euro U	72		7.9	12.8
251	174	JF Fledg Jap	230½	+½		
126	99	Jupiter Intl Grt	113	-2	4.1	..
272	194	Klnwt Chrtt	263½	-½	2.6	
130	96½	Klnwt E Mkt	123	-½	..	
140	110	Klnwt End	140			
86¾	73	Klnwt Euro Pvt	86½		3.3	38.2
27½	20	Klnwt Euro Wts	30			
91	74	Klnwt H Inct	76		14.1	8.2
297	213	Klnwt O'seas	285	-6	1.6	
157	111	Klnwt Smlr	161	+1	2.0	70.0
605¾	427¾	Korea—Euro	557	+9½	0.1	
125½	71	Latin American	102½	-1½		
1007	718	Law Debenture	1006	+4	2.6	42.8
105	77	Lloyds Sm Cap	105	...		
29½	26	Lloyds Sm Div	27	...	19.3	..
132	102	Lloyds Sm Pkg	132		3.7	
179	160	Lon St Lawrence	172		4.6	28.3
355	283	Lowland	349	-3	3.6	31.0
1387½	975	Lydenburg	975		2.2	38.0
665	503	M&G 2nd Dual Ca	620	-5		
30	24	M&G Rec Inc	24½		20.7	6.1
142	127	M&G Rec Pcnge	137	..	3.6	34.4
92	79	M&G Rec Zero Div	88½	-1		
133	100	M Currie Euro	129½	-1½	0.4	
109	93½	M Currie Japan	101	-1		
162	119	M Currie Pac	150½	-1½	0.1	
237	182	Majedie	233	-4	3.1	35.8
57	41	Mankin	44	-1		
290	241	Merchants	286	-2	5.2	..
95	78½	Mercury Euro Pv	94½	+½	1.8	64.8
32	23	Mercury Eur Wt	24	+½		
109½	78	Mercury World	97½	-½	1.3	
31	14	Mercury Wld Wts	30½			
615	482	Monks Inv Tst	594	-4	1.9	55.0
165	125	Morg Gren Inc	159	-4	3.9	26.9
64	40½	Morg Wts	61	-2		
86	48	Morg Lain Amer	70	-½		
49	30	Morg Wts	22½	-1		
130	104	Murray Ent	117	-1	2.5	44.2
34	17	Murray Ent Wts	22			
95	72½	Murray Emg Eco	80½		1.2	
40	18	Murray Em Ec Wt	28	-1½		
65	54	Murray Eurot	61	-1	0.7	
17½	6	Murray Eu Wts	11			
392	308	Murray Income†	383	-4	3.8	31.5

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
417	296	Murray Intl	415	+1	3.8	
183	162½	Murray S/C DP	181			
151	126	Murray S/C Cap	140	-1		
81	66	Murray S/C Inc†	66½	...	20.6	6.1
3250	2980	Murray S/C Uts	2950		0.5	..
506	376	Murray Small	502	-3	1.2	
377	308	Murray Vent	368	+1	4.2	29.7
18	11	Newmarket	14½	-½		
61	53	Nthrng Inct	54	-1	11.2	11.9
78	61	Nthrng Cap	64			
407	316	O'seas Inv Tst	397	-4	1.1	
218	156	O'seas Wts	200	-1		
147	90½	Pacific Assets	137½	-1½	1.2	69.5
95	73½	Perpetual Jap	83½	-1		
328	216	Perpt UK Sm Co	318		0.9	
£127	8425	Personal Assets	£120½		2.1	51.8
125	103	Pilot Inv	116		2.1	55.2
117½	87¾	Prolific Inc	109½	-1	4.4	25.4
226	164	RIT Cap Ptnr	219	-3	0.9	
134	114	River Merc Cap	115	-2		
97	77½	River Merc Ex Inct	82		11.9	9.0
16	4	River Merc Ex Incllt	7			
85	75	River Merc Grd Inct	75	-1	13.0	9.6
29	25½	River Merc Grd Ptl	26			
112	102	River Merc Tst Inct	102		11.6	
141	112	River Merc Str Co†	130	-1	4.2	38.0
43	30	River Merc Sm Wt	30			
483	394	Robeco	481	+1	2.9	
517	398	Rolinco	511	+4	1.5	
119	95	Schrd Asia Pac	113	-1½		
117	109	Schrod Inc Gwth	115	-1		
96	67	Schrod Jap Gwth	81	-½		
898½	635¼	Schrod Korea	851¼	-14¼		
323	146	Schrod Medium	322		0.6	
30	21	Schrod Split Cap	23			
113	96	Schrod Split Inct	96		10.2	
131¼	109½	Schrod Split Zero	129	-½		
124	88	Schrod UK Gwth	119½	-3½	2.5	42.5
274½	200	Scot	270	-3½	2.6	46.7
171	147½	Scot American†	164½	-3½	3.8	29.4
358	216	Scot Asian	336	-4		
1065	555	Scot Wts	975	-45		
102	74½	Scot Eastern	98½	-3	2.2	
268½	206	Scot Mtge	264	-3½	2.1	50.7
97	78½	Scot Natl Tstt	89½		11.0	11.5
117	100	Scot Value	114½	-½	2.2	53.6
1945	1483	Second Alliance†	1925	-11	3.1	39.9
99½	76	Secs Tst of Scot	91½	-1½	4.6	26.6
142	123	SHIRESCOT†	132		5.4	
357	289	St Andrew Inv	350		3.3	
391	318	Temple Bar†	374	-2	4.9	
126½	90	Thrgm Asian E	117¼	...	0.5	
61	16½	Throg Dual Cp	50	-1		
85	68	Throgmorton†	76		3.8	
146½	98	Tmpltn Emg Mkt	137½	-1½	0.7	
173	139½	TR City Of Lon	167½	-2	4.1	39.3
216	159	TR Euro Growth	214	-1	1.0	

LEISURE & HOTELS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
118¾	56	First Choice†	67		7.1	
392	262	First Leisure	392	+1	2.5	22.5
408	224½	Forte†	346	-6	3.1	23.9
175	133	Friendly Hotels	147		4.8	17.2
742	476	Granada†	731	-8	2.0	17.7
38	16	Hi-Tec Sports	29		5.5	
195	86	Hornby©	195	+15	3.2	16.8
513	248	Hozelock	513	+2	2.1	19.9
243	134	Jurys Hotel	215¾	-5	3.7	13.8
28	14¾	Kunick†	26½	-½	2.8	22.3
193	122	Ladbroke	181	-3	4.2	38.8
519	264	London Clubs	517		3.4	18.5
285	122	Man Utd	284		2.0	11.9
97¼	58	Mandarin Orntl	80	-3½	4.5	17.1
102	66	Norween	102		4.9	12.4
141	76	Pavilion Leisure†	116	-1	5.4	8.1
36	29	Queensborough	33	-1		
20¼	5¾	Queens Moat	18¼	-1		
498	350	Rank Org	479	-9	3.6	13.0
37½	26	Ryan Hotels 'E'	36	+1	4.5	12.6
1300	845	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1298	+5	1.4	
213	160	Sinclair (Wm)†	178		5.4	11.5
104	74½	Stakis†	95½	-1	2.3	20.1

MEDIA

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
533	335	Abbott Mead	533	+2	1.9	31.6
310	280	Adscene†	295		3.6	15.3
51½	22	Aegis Gp	49½			19.8
7¾	1¼	Allied Radio	3¼		..	
15	9	BBB Design©	15		..	
315	155	Barbour Index	300		3.9	44.7
10½	4½	Birkdale	7			
345	315	Black (A&C)	325		5.4	12.6
281	174	Blenheim Gp	279	+5	4.6	17.2
318	196	Border TV†	276	-11	1.9	22.8
382	335	Bristol	375		4.4	18.3
481	242	BSkyB†	421	-2	1.5	38.6
172	126	CIA Gp©	172		1.4	33.9
30	20	Caledonian Med	30	-½	...	
675	343	Capital Radio	657	-1	2.0	...
432¾	340½	Carlton Comm▼	428	-2	2.8	15.3
443	248	Chrysalis†	443		0.8	..
100	80	City of Lon©	80		7.8	10.2
116	63	Cordiant	104	-2	..	
1559¾	1181¼	Daily Mail	1525		1.5	37.1
1481¼	959¾	Daily Mail 'A'	1416¾	-9¾	1.6	...
558	295	Dorling Kind	512	-5	1.0	41.8
630	385	EMAP	622	+3	2.1	24.1
959¾	584¾	Elsevier	938¾	-12½	2.3	24.0
1655	930	Euromoney Pb	1260		4.3	25.3
26½	10	Fitch	26½	+1½		17.4
535	333	Flextech©	515	-6		
240	143	GGT Group†	202	-1	3.3	15.5
263	109½	GWR Gp†	259	+12	1.1	
211	198	Seahouse Group	210		2.6	13.7
26	13	Goodhead	25		0.5	
271	130½	Grampian	254	-1	2.3	21.8
401	132	HTV Group†	365	-19	7.3	
358	255	Haynes Pub	278		4.6	13.3
50	17	Highbury Hse	21	-1		
390	220	Hodder H'line	220		3.4	13.6
165	137	Home Counts	165		4.2	18.8
348	228	IBC	302		3.3	12.9
16	6½	Incepta	16	+1		7.8
485	248	Independent	482	+2	2.3	23.0
135	98	Intermacor	110	-2	8.9	21.3
169	136	Johnston Press	165		1.6	19.9
25	13	Lopex	20½		3.0	19.7
355	63	MAID	167	-1		
68	60	MediaKey	60		2.0	
773	528	Metal Bulletin	773		2.6	
155	109	Midland Ind	146	-1	2.9	15.3
278	120	Mirror Gp	206	-1	2.2	13.4
585	344	More O'Ferrall	582	-3	3.1	.
385	231	News Corp	374		0.4	10.5
339	207	News Intl†	310		1.3	12.2
35	15	Osprey Comms	36			
725	539	Pearson	682	-11	2.9	20.0
267½	155	Phonelink	180			
606	523	Portsmth Sund	590		2.6	14.8
291	210	Quarto	265	-3	3.5	
1073	712	Reed Intl	1055	-28	2.7	36.8
728	404	Reuters	702	-15	1.8	32.0
344	322½	Scot Radio	342	+2	2.4	23.6
741	393	Scot TV	638	-20	3.2	
35	20½	SelecTV©	39			49.2
50½	32	Shandwick†	50		3.2	
65	33	Sleepy Kids©	39	-1	0.3	..
302	222	Smithmews	294		2.1	18.2
98	20	Sterling Pub©	25			
45	33½	Taylor Nelson	41½	-½	2.1	21.1
490	355	Telegraph	458		3.6	32.7
122	102	Television Cp	116		5.1	17.1
975	725	Thomson Corp†	950	-20	4.7	20.1
1776	997	Thorn EMI	1629	-21	2.8	25.4
446	301½	Trinity Intl	443	-3	3.0	18.6
1345	632	Ulster TV	1295	-35	2.2	25.1
664	464	United News†	635	+4	4.5	22.0
140	85	VTR	125		4.4	12.9
191	107	WPP	185	-4	0.9	20.1
75	55	Wilmington	67	-1		31.5
1052	366	Yorkshire TV	1004	-9	0.9	

OIL & GAS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
108¼	67¼	Seafield	91			47.7
893	687	Shell	847	-9	5.0	
4681¼	3234¾	Total	4218¾	-106¾	3.7	15.1
388	221	Woodside	344	-8	1.2	
58	15	XCL	18	+3	..	

OTHER FINANCIAL

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
136	78½	Aberdeen Tst	135		2.3	35.6
101	75	BWD	98½	+½	6.6	
78	35	Barry Bch Mtl	35		9.3	9.9
320	148	Beattie Inv	310	-10		
170	112	Brewin Dolphin†	170	+2	5.1	
753	625	Caledonia	753	+3	2.9	23.3
2400	1900	Camellia	1993½		2.3	18.4
242	142	Cattles	236½	-2½	3.2	20.9
35	16	Clerkdo	21			
105	61	EFT Group	103	-2	2.6	
775	653	EFM	708	+5	4.5	...
186	91	Euro	109	-2	6.9	5.5
305	161	Gartmore	247		0.9	20.8

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1272	963	Henderson Ad	1133	-2	5.0	30.8
286	162½	Invesco	264	-3	2.3	18.2
49	41	Investment Co	42		6.8	12.9
238	198	Ivory Same	232	-2	4.2	17.2
248¼	164½	Jardine Strat	216¼	-6	4.4	6.9
144	85	Johnson Fry	114	+1	4.4	8.0
256	131	Lon Forfaiting†	253	+3	5.0	
379	216	London Pacific†	249	+3	7.6	
204	116	Lon Scot Bk†	202	-1	3.1	20.9
182	139	Man ED & F	166		7.7	7.9
1354	953	M & G	1263	-7	3.2	25.3
470	224	MAI†	406	+2	3.3	18.1
172½	78	MAI 5.9% Cv Pf	152	+½	4.9	
965	680	MAM	873	-2	3.9	19.2
130	90	Nat Home Loan	107		1.2	4.8
2230	1150	Perpetual	2223	+15	2.2	29.5
882	515	Provident	880	+1	4.0	17.6
336	245	Rathbone Brs	333		3.6	17.1
46	24½	Rutland Tst	45½	+½	3.6	19.8
381	281	S & U	378	+12	4.3	11.2
130	100	SJP Capital	119	+3	3.2	22.5
607	305¾	Swire Pacific	562¾	-12	2.2	21.8
78	33	Towry Law	36		3.5	
371	302	Transatlantic	344	-1	5.4	18.9
26	3	Trio Hldgs	6			...

PHARMACEUTICALS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2368	425	Brit Biotech	2280	+25		
535	103	Cantab Pharms	500			
692	233½	Celltech	486	-5		..
375	92½	Chiroscience	252	-3		
284	31	Cortecs	269	+9		
969	587	Glaxo Wellcome	845	-1	4.5	16.8
284	162	Medeva†	249	-7	2.0	14.7
260	200	Peptide Thera	206	-1		
719	273	Scotia	587	-3		
329	198	Shire Pharms	202	-3		
742	444	SmithKlineB†	721	+4	2.5	20.9
737	416	SmithKline Uts†	721	+1	2.5	20.9
1409	840	Zeneca	1370	-7	2.9	17.5

PRINTING & PAPER

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
142	120	AG Holdings	132		5.4	12.2
630	327	API	630	+5	3.0	23.0
134	57	App Hole	125	-3		
230	147½	Arjo Wiggins	211	+1	4.5	71.4
280	162	Aspen Comms©	279	+1	2.6	20.8
426	347	Bemrose	387		4.3	12.4
165	103	Blagden	146			
3471¼	1675	Bowater Inc	2581¼	+96¼		
474	280	Bromore Intl©	469	-3	1.3	22.0
727	474	Br Polythene	723	-4	2.9	
40	18	Br Thornton	18		6.9	6.1
162	112	Bracon Grp	156		2.2	16.6
218	159	Bunzl	200		3.2	13.8
204	137	Capital Inds	203		3.1	14.5
2991¼	2046½	Carrand Mil	2840¾	-3½	3.0	17.3
314	237	Cropper (James)	303		1.5	20.1
1054	625	De La Rue	723	+2	4.0	15.2
108	52	Delyn Group	87	-3	2.5	12.7
133	93	Dolphin Pack	133		4.4	16.8
100	81	Fairway Group	95		5.2	
352	192	Ferguson Intl	205		8.1	9.0
277	215	Field Gp†	263		1.4	18.1

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
498	184	Lloyds Chem	467	-2	2.7	17.6
165	108	MFI	160	-4	3.3	23.9
457	371	Marks Spencer	436	-3	3.0	16.9
649	500	Menzies (John)	550	-5	3.0	13.9
20	10	Merchant Retail	18			12.5
700	338	Moss Bros	698		2.5	20.3
484	252	Next	470	-8	2.7	25.9
96	34	Owen (G)	58			
438	243	[illegible] Intl	438	+5	3.2	17.5
98	66	Partridge Fine	69		5.4	
155	32	QS Hldgs	36		18.0	9.4
17½	5¼	Rhino Grp	12			
209	113	Rosebys	208		3.0	24.0
120½	94	Sears	96	-½	5.2	15.1
24	11½	Signet Group	19½			
484	321	Smith WH†	436	+1	4.5	25.3
995	638	Sotheby's†	965	-15	1.9	
349	209	Storehouse	328	-3	2.5	20.2
140	90	Stylo	105		5.6	9.0
203	143	T & S Stores	203		4.1	12.9
171	98	Tie Rack	168½	-½	2.0	17.7
4½	1	Upton & South	2¾			
598	424	Vendome	568	-7	2.3	20.3
35	13	WEW Group	13	-2	6.7	7.7
138	83	Wickes	125	+1	2.1	40.5
84	35	Wld of Leather	68		2.7	..
222	155	Wyevale	222		3.0	

SUPPORT SERVICES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1088	620	ADT	1056	-28		
153	99	Alpha Airpt	118	-1	5.0	11.8
41	22	Alphameric	33	-1	0.9	24.7
74	18	Auto Sec	39	+2		11.8
202½	101½	BET Ord	194½	-2½	2.7	19.6
178	138	BNB Res	144	-1	5.0	11.3
313	220	BPP	315		4.0	18.1
199	131	BSM	184	+2	4.9	
1350	500	Borland©	1337½			
107	60	Br Bloodstock©	105			33.9
215	105	Brit Data Mgt	154		4.4	25.3
96	59	Brooks Service	89	-5	3.5	19.7
410	173	Business Post	395	-1	2.3	25.8
493	298	CMG	469	-4	1.3	24.5
131	75	CRT Grp	131		3.7	20.2
6	1½	Card Cp	1½			
331	138	Capita Group	310	-4	1.6	
100	15	Cardinal Bus	15½			
10½	4½	Chemex	8½	-½	2.1	15.7
370	277½	Chubb Sec	350	-10½	5.7	18.5
136	58¾	Corp Services©	124	-1	3.6	
61	46	Crout Casing	47		4.5	
182	65	DCS Gp	87		1.4	17.3
256	204	Davis Service	236		4.6	13.9
375	223	Delphi	372		1.2	46.1
130	66	Dudley Jenkins†	129		3.4	19.8
94	28	EW Fact	45		8.3	6.2
183	84	El Data Proc	90		3.0	11.9
403	280	Hays	386	-5	2.4	18.8
236	145	Hogg Robinson	225	-2	4.4	13.8
3031¼	1268¾	ISS B Dkr	1565¾	-59¾	1.6	14.2
415	152	JBA Hldgs	398	-4	1.1	40.8
282	222	Johnson Clean	252	+2	4.8	15.9
136	80	Kalamazoo	111		4.3	11.1
406	239	Kewill Sys	406	+1	2.1	14.3
387	77	LBNS©	143	-12		
27	11	Laser-Scan©	18			
168	93	Leigh	94		8.8	11.1
537	301	Logica	528	+5	1.5	24.5
107	29	MDIS	77½	+4½	8.3	17.0

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
80	53	Country Gdns	73		2.1	15.1
1250	480	Dawson Hdgs†	1215		3.1	32.6
212	37	Firecrest	120	-12		52.2
18¾	14¼	Freepages	14½	-1		
127	58	Megalomedia	107	-2		
595	155	Memory Corp	155	-30		
98	54	Old English Pub	98		1.3	
445	345	Pet City	395	+3		
573	490	Southern News	573	+3	3.5	15.0
66	43	Southern Vectis	59			
185	70	Surrey Fr Inst	170	+3	1.5	20.0
56	36	Trocadero	51	-1		

Source: Finstat

© USM; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * Figures or report awaited; .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index

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BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
109⅝	101⅛	Treas 15¼% 1996	101⅛	-1/32	15.04	5.75
107¼	101¹¹⁄₃₂	Exch 13¼% 1996	101¹¹⁄₃₂	-⅛	13.07	5.84
104¹³⁄₁₆	102²⁹⁄₃₂	Conv 10% 1996	102²⁹⁄₃₂	-⅛	9.75	6.09
101⁹⁄₁₆	97⅛	Treas 7% 1997	101⅛	-1/32	6.93	6.29
109²⁹⁄₃₂	105²⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 13¼% 1997	106	-⅛	12.50	6.06
109²⁵⁄₃₂	104	Exch 10½% 1997	104	-⅛	10.10	6.10
104⅞	100⅞	Treas 8¾% 1997	103⅝	-⅛	8.45	6.31
117⅝	113⅞	Exch 15% 1997	113⅞	-⅛	13.26	6.35
107⁹⁄₁₆	102⅞	Exch 9¾% 1998	105⁹⁄₁₆	-⅛	9.24	6.59
102⁹⁄₁₆	96⁹⁄₁₆	Treas 7¼% 1998	101⅛	-⅛	7.17	6.69
100⅞	94¹³⁄₁₆	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100⅞	..	6.73	6.59
117⅝	114⅞	Treas 14% 1996-01	114⅞	-⅛	12.23	6.81
124⅞	119⅞	Treas 15½% 1998	119⅞	-⅛	12.93	6.88
114⅝	109⅞	Exch 12% 1998	112⅛	-⅛	10.70	6.95
109⁹⁄₁₆	100⅞	Treas 9½% 1999	106⅞	-⅛	8.94	7.02
116⅞	111⅛	Exch 12¼% 1999	113⅞	-⅛	10.75	7.09
112⅞	105⅞	Treas 10½% 1999	109⅞	-⅛	9.59	7.13
99⅞	89⅞	Treas 6% 1999	96⅞	-⅛	6.21	7.16
112⅞	105⅛	Conv 10¼% 1999	109⅛	-1⅛	9.36	7.27

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
109⅞	100⅞	Conv 9% 2000	105⅞	-⅛	8.52	7.33
105⅛	96⅛	Treas 8% 2000	102⅞	-1⅛	7.81	7.37
124⅞	117	Treas 13% 2000	120⅛	-1⅛	10.80	7.42
114	104⅞	Treas 10% 2001	110⅞	-1⅛	9.07	7.49
101⅞	90⅞	Treas 7% 2001	97⅛	-1⅛	7.18	7.55
113⅞	103⅞	Treas 9¾% 2002	110⅞	-1⅛	8.85	7.72
105⅞	94⅞	Treas 8% 2003	101⅛	-1⅛	7.92	7.80
117⅞	105⅛	Treas 10% 2003	111⅞†	-1⅛	8.93	7.86
119⅞	110⅞	Treas 11½% 2001-04	115⅞†	-1⅛	9.83	7.66
83⅞	70½	Fund 3½% 1999-04	80	-⅛	4.38	6.77
114⅞	103⅞	Conv 9½% 2004	109	-1⅛	8.72	8.02
95⅞	86⅞	Treas 6¾% 2004	92⅞	-1⅛	7.32	8.01
108⅞	97⅞	Treas 8½% 2005	102⅛	-1⅛	8.26	8.06
114⅞	103⅛	Conv 9½% 2005	109⅛	-1⅛	8.71	8.07
131⅞	119⅞	Treas 12½% 2003-05	125⅞	-1⅛	9.95	7.98
101⅞	94⅞	Treas 7¾% 2006	95⅞	-1⅛	7.84	8.10
103⅛	92⅞	Treas 7¾% 2006	97⅞†	-1⅛	7.98	8.15
104⅞	93⅛	Treas 8% 2002-06	99⅛	-1⅛	8.06	8.19
125⅞	113⅞	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	119⅞	-1⅛	9.80	7.93
106⅞	97⅞	Treas 8½% 2007	102⅞	-1⅛	8.32	8.20
138⅞	126⅞	Treas 13½% 2004-08	132⅛	-1⅛	10.21	7.98
112⅞	101⅛	Treas 9% 2008	105⅞	-1⅛	8.50	8.22
104⅛	94	Treas 8% 2009	99⅞	-⅛	8.06	8.27

LONGS (over 15 years)

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
88⅞	79⅞	Treas 6¼% 2010	82⅞	-1⅛	7.58	8.33
112⅞	101⅞	Conv 9% 2011	105⅛	-1⅛	8.53	8.35
113⅞	102⅞	Treas 9% 2012	105⅞	-1⅛	8.52	8.35
82⅛	72⅛	Treas 5½% 2008-12	77⅛†	-1⅛	7.13	8.06
103⅞	93⅞	Treas 8% 2013	96⅞	-1⅛	8.27	8.35
101⅞	91⅞	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	95⅛	-1	8.15	8.35
104⅞	93⅞	Treas 8% 2015	96⅞	-1⅛	8.27	8.33
111⅛	100⅞	Treas 8¾% 2017	103⅞	-1⅛	8.45	8.38
141⅞	127⅞	Exch 12% 2013-17	132	-2⅛	9.09	8.47

UNDATED

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
45⅞	40⅞	War Ln 3½%	42⅞	-⅛	8.30	...
32⅞	28⅛	Treas 2½%	30¼	+⅛	8.26	.
50⅞	45⅛	Consols 4%	47⅞	-⅛	8.37	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
216⅛	201⅛	Treas IL 2% 1996	216⅞†	...		0.86
113⅛	106⅞	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	111⅞	-⅛	-1.03	2.87
186⅞	165⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2001	176⅞	-⅛	3.12	3.81
178⅞	161⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2003	172⅛	-⅛	3.30	3.68
116⅞	108⅞	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	113⅛	-⅛	3.35	3.69
185⅞	168⅞	Treas IL 2% 2006	179⅞	-1⅛	3.44	3.71
167⅛	152⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2009	161⅞	-1⅛	3.54	3.76
173⅛	157⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2011	166⅞	-1⅛	3.58	3.78
143	129⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2013	136⅞	-1⅛	3.62	3.80
152¼	137⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2016	145⅞	-1⅛	3.66	3.83
145⅞	131⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2020	139⅞	-2	3.80	3.84
122⅞	109¼	Treas IL 2½% 2024	115⅞	-1⅛	3.69	3.82
130⅞	108⅞	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	114⅞	-1⅛	3.70	3.84

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 01895 258 783				
Growland Amer	211.30	223.60	+ 4.70	0.08
Growland Equity	278.00	295.70	+ 2.30	1.97
Growland Euro	264.90	280.30	+ 2.60	0.61
Growland Extl Bal	131.20	136.00	+ 0.70	4.99
Growland Gilt	76.30	78.66	+ 0.30	5.74
Growland Japan	173.50	183.60	- 4.00	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS 01203 553 231				
General Acc	639.80	680.70	+ 2.40	2.57
General Inc	549.70	584.80	+ 2.10	2.57
UK Growth Acc	435.30	423.00	+ 2.70	2.76
UK Growth Inc	289.80	308.40	+ 1.70	2.76
Higher Inc Acc	791.70	842.30	+ 3.40	4.11
Higher Inc Inc	440.60	468.80	+ 2.60	4.11
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	205.10	216.50†	- 0.30	5.56
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	92.13	97.31†	- 0.10	5.56
Nth America	367.60	391.10	+ 10.40	
Europe	345.70	367.80	+ 1.80	0.50
Far Eastl	86.48	92.00	+ 0.61	2.91
Brit Fndmtls Acc	114.90	122.20	+ 0.60	4.66
Brit Fndmtls Inc	80.48	85.62	+ 0.37	4.66
Global Opps	100.00	106.40	+ 0.10	0.23
Balanced Acc	62.42	66.41	+ 0.15	2.63
Balanced Inc	59.74	63.56	+ 0.16	2.63
Japan Acc	46.30	49.26	- 0.71	
Pac Basin Acc	422.40	449.40	- 2.10	0.75
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	128.50	136.40†	- 0.30	7.30
High Inc Equity	180.90	193.50	+ 1.20	4.35
Worldwide Bond	288.30	305.70†	- 0.30	4.58
American Growth	363.70	389.20	+ 8.20	0.72
Asian Pacific	349.90	374.20	- 0.90	0.22
Assets & Earnings	301.20	320.40	+ 0.70	2.73
Euro Capital Acc	173.00	185.00	+ 0.50	0.56
Extra Inc	44.48	47.32†	+ 0.21	8.50
General	273.40	290.80†	+ 0.70	2.86
Global Opps	64.30	68.44	0.35	0.44
Japan	123.10	131.70	- 3.00	
Managed Inc	48.06	51.13†	+ 0.14	4.55
Mastertrust	163.20	174.50	0.50	1.36
US Emerging Cos	193.50	205.90	+ 3.10	
Ethical	78.85	83.88	+ 1.21	2.49
International	134.60	143.40	- 0.80	0.78
Dividend & Growth	67.44	71.74	+ 0.39	4.28
Global Gwth & Sec	72.00	76.53	+ 0.17	2.55
Latin America	58.00	61.70	- 1.04	
Capital Reserve	142.00	142.00	+ 0.70	4.93
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2120.00	2205.00	- 27.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	56.68	60.55	+ 0.45	0.50
Emerging Mkts	72.32	77.02	+ 0.23	0.04
European	141.50	149.20†	+ 0.50	
Exempt	1016.40	1083.00	- 6.30	1.72
Extra Income #	47.05	50.31†	- 0.01	6.76
Far East Emg Eco	133.20	142.00	+ 1.60	0.44
Fixed Interest #	[illegible]	24.67†	- 0.19	9.45
Fund Inv Tst	156.30	164.70	0.10	9.45
Japan	187.60	190.90	- 3.00	
Latin American	52.66	54.98	- 0.94	0.89
Pacific	97.86	102.26	- 0.08	0.28
Property Share	63.51	66.67	- 0.29	2.63
UK Emerging Cos	70.50	75.81	- 0.97	1.63
UK Growth	51.37	54.34	- 0.43	2.16
Abtr World Port #	82.30	85.72	- 0.38	1.96
Ethical	78.75	83.83	- 0.09	2.21
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.15	50.25†	- 0.11	7.47
For AEGON see Matheson				
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0171 256 5868				
Fundl Property	94.23	101.20†		5.10
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD 01452 305 958				
Amity Income	86.90	92.20†	- 1.54	2.16
Income Builder Inc	79.93	83.97	- 0.80	2.81
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC IFA dlg: 01793 510 366 Client dlr 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	268.90	287.40	- 1.90	3.23
Capital	475.30	511.20	0.50	1.25
Balanced	777.90	831.50†	4.30	2.50
Accumulator	1483.00	1585.00	- 9.00	1.97
Income Trusts				
American Income	60.38	64.48†	- 1.00	2.48
High Income	430.40	460.00†	4.90	4.11
Equity Income	243.30	260.00	- 2.30	4.07
High Yield	264.60	282.80	2.10	4.13
Govt Securities	33.90	35.79	- 0.26	6.10
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	207.00	221.00	- 3.70	0.05
European Growth	47.92	51.06	0.78	0.08
International	189.40	201.30†	- 0.60	0.11
Japan	202.70	216.50	- 2.20	
Pacific	433.40	463.00	- 2.40	
Secs of America	570.80	608.30	- 12.10	0.15
Wwide Asset Val	55.60	59.42†	- 0.02	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	593.50	634.40	- 2.50	1.59
Cons & Gilt	46.26	49.45†	+ 0.14	4.38
Smaller Cos	200.30	214.70	- 3.30	1.04
2nd Smaller Cos	190.10	203.20†	- 2.00	0.91
Recovery	162.40	173.60	- 1.60	1.63
Met Min & Cdty	176.90	189.90	- 0.30	0.16
Overs Earnings	400.50	428.10	- 2.80	1.17
Technology	219.10	234.50	- 4.70	
UK Special Sits	550.97	588.92†	- 1.60	1.06
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 01293 526 911				
Fundl Gwl Pens	114.90	119.30		3.04
Founders Persl Pens	68.77	71.44		1.44
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 800 0033				
Capital	79.64	84.72	- 0.47	1.74
International	70.47	74.90	- 0.10	
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD 0131 222 4242				
America	330.60	354.50	+ 4.70	
Bond	116.80	122.90	- 0.90	6.82
Brit Smlr Cos	117.50	125.00	+ 1.60	1.63
Conv & Gen #	70.51	75.01	+ 0.41	5.28
Europe	267.40	284.00	+ 3.70	0.58
Euro Smlr Cos	118.90	126.30	0.10	0.62
Income Gwth	372.70	396.50†	+ 1.30	2.85
Japan	319.50	340.00	5.50	
Latin American	77.51	82.46	- 1.51	0.35
Pacific	113.50	121.10	- 0.50	1.15
UK Smlr Cos	60.05	63.88	+ 0.97	1.26
Japan Fd	667.20	688.00†	- 7.10	
Mngd Fd	198.80	211.20	+ 0.90	2.81
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD 0171 489 8673				
Brit & Overs	367.50	389.70	- 1.90	0.93
Capital Gwth	124.40	131.60	- 1.00	2.49
Wwide Opps	223.10	236.00	- 2.20	0.87
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD 0181 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Brit Inv Fd Inc	411.00	428.10	+ 5.00	2.35
European Bd Inc	94.70	99.02	- 0.59	6.72
Exempt	81.18	86.57	+ 1.21	3.87
Financial	96.35	103.10	- 0.30	2.31
500	491.80	531.70†	+ 6.10	2.55
General	316.00	338.30	- 3.50	2.42
Property	240.50	258.10†	+ 0.40	6.30
Trustee	216.70	231.80	- 2.30	2.27
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.90	100.90	- 0.10	5.61
Extra Income #	135.20	144.60	+ 1.30	4.70
Gilt & Fxd Int	57.33	59.35†	+ 0.53	8.23
Income #	582.60	623.10†	+ 7.20	4.61
Income Builder #	68.55	73.12†	+ 0.65	5.39
Intl Income	71.23	75.78	+ 0.49	2.93
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	135.80	144.90†	- 1.90	1.98
Leisure	166.00	177.60	+ 3.20	1.01
Recovery	475.30	508.30	+ 2.30	2.62
Smllr Cos Inc	53.09	56.94	+ 1.07	2.16
Special Sits	363.50	388.80	+ 4.70	1.32
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	170.50	181.40	+ 2.60	0.27
Aust Acc	280.80	299.70	- 6.90	3.02
Aust Inc	169.30	180.70	- 4.10	3.02
Euro Gwth Inc	180.10	191.10		0.62
-do- Accum	194.50	206.40		0.62
Japan & Gen Inc	156.60	166.00†	- 4.70	
-do- Accum	158.60	167.90	- 4.80	
Japan Spec Sits	71.29	75.62	- 1.03	
Worldwide	195.30	207.30	+ 0.50	0.61
BARING FUND MANGERS LTD 0171 214 1004				
American Growth	127.20	134.40	+ 1.30	
Amer Smlr Cos	156.20	167.00	- 2.30	
Convertibles	58.90	63.09	+ 0.87	4.90
Eastern	325.10	351.40	+ 1.90	0.30
Equity Income	92.45	99.93†	+ 0.42	3.80
European Growth	353.10	375.20	1.70	0.80
Europe	315.10	335.00	+ 2.20	1.90
German Growth	86.38	91.53	0.26	0.50
Global Bond	68.61	73.25	- 0.09	6.50
Global Growth	147.20	156.70	- 0.20	0.40
Japan Growth	202.00	215.50	4.10	
Japan Sunrise	163.70	174.30	- 1.50	
Korea Trust	74.75	81.62	- 0.46	
Portfolio	142.90	153.10†	+ 0.30	2.30
-do- Accum	267.40	286.70	+ 0.60	2.30
UK Growth	95.04	102.20	+ 0.50	2.60
UK Smaller Cos	88.85	96.73	+ 1.50	2.50
Select Managers	87.36	93.95	+ 0.37	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD 0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	88.94	94.62†	- 0.22	
Special Opps Inc	62.20	66.17†	+ 0.14	
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD 0141 225 6020				
Balanced Growth	132.58	140.30	+ 0.06	1.40
-do- Accum	151.70	160.53	+ 0.07	1.40
Smaller Cos	138.07	147.12	+ 2.36	0.61
Higher Yield #	53.73	56.85	+ 0.87	4.08
American Gth Inc	96.36	101.97†	- 0.57	
European Growth	155.18	164.21†	+ 0.22	0.08
-do- Accum	158.44	167.66	+ 0.22	0.08
Global Bond Inc #	27.49	28.48	+ 0.14	7.25
Mngd Pfolio Inc	50.93	53.87	+ 0.38	1.27
-do- Accum	52.23	55.25	+ 0.39	1.27
Intl Spec Opps	152.33	161.26	- 2.35	
Pacific Gth	153.63	162.58	+ 0.21	0.10
UK General #	90.68	95.96	+ 1.41	2.91
-do- Accum #	95.46	101.02	+ 1.49	2.91
Japan	59.27	62.72†	- 0.60	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	98.96	102.55†	+ 0.82	8.50
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 480 7216				
Great Dotd Gilt	64.88	65.71†	+ 0.37	8.46
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD 0161 837 5060				
Environ	180.50	192.00	+ 1.70	1.68
UK Growth	197.50	210.10†	+ 2.50	1.95
UK Income	146.50	155.90	+ 1.00	4.21
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD 01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	226.30	239.90†	+ 0.90	1.65
-do- Income Dist	123.10	130.40	+ 0.90	3.83
-do- Accum	387.20	410.50	+ 2.90	3.83
Gilt & Fxd Int	40.47	42.52†	+ 0.10	6.10
Growth Units	340.40	356.90	+ 0.70	1.97
Bond	172.00	181.50	- 1.20	7.30
Intl Growth	244.50	260.20	- 2.70	0.18
North American	249.90	265.80	+ 3.40	0.24
Far East	321.00	345.50	- 1.30	0.69
UK Smaller Cos	214.10	229.00	+ 3.30	1.02
European	95.09	100.80	1.00	0.56
Japanese Growth	47.37	50.29	- 1.27	
High Income	217.20	232.20	+ 0.70	3.88
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD 0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
Capital Inc	208.00	221.10	+ 3.60	
European Inc	92.25	97.61	- 0.32	0.73
Smaller Cos Inc	98.07	104.33†	+ 1.15	1.40
Growth	511.50	544.20†	+ 6.90	1.73
Income & Growth #	452.90	481.40†	+ 3.90	3.80
-do- Accum #	668.80	711.50	+ 5.70	3.80
Japan & Gen	68.80	73.12†	- 1.18	
Mnrtr Portfolio	113.52	117.16	+ 1.00	2.10
-do- Accum	138.29	142.73	+ 1.00	2.10
Special Sits	119.00	126.60	+ 1.50	1.81
High Yield	114.74	115.20	+ 11.00	4.25

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	97.32	103.76	- 0.40	2.45
American Portfolio	118.33	125.67	+ 0.65	0.89
European Portfolio	122.40	130.57	- 1.80	0.44
High Income	50.33	50.44†	- 0.44	7.83
Japanese Portfolio	67.91	72.20†	- 1.27	
Pacific Portfolio	161.74	173.92	+ 0.41	1.36
UK Inc & Growth	93.21	99.64	- 0.09	2.83
Unity & Bond	57.76	58.47	- 0.38	6.46
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG 0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	737.60	748.74		4.30
Fxd In Sec	155.63	158.25		9.15
COIF CHARITY FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	739.87	750.85	+ 6.24	4.32
Investment Acc	132.99	133.49	+ 27.88	
Fixed Int Inc	127.00	127.50	+ 0.76	9.02
Fixed Int Acc	216.05	218.91	+ 1.29	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	91.46	96.46	+ 1.16	3.08
Beck Bio-Tech	51.34	55.28	+ 1.49	
Acorn Ethical Tst	172.91	181.57	+ 1.14	0.60
City Fin Accum	76.63	80.47	- 1.45	2.03
City Fin America	115.86	121.77	+ 0.44	
City Fin Intl	94.61	99.35	+ 0.77	0.81
City Fin Japan	149.77	157.27	- 1.25	
Friars Hse Cap	315.77	335.93	+ 10.11	2.23
Friars Hse Inc	203.65	216.65	+ 2.83	4.10
Buckley Wrld Gth	145.82	159.31†	+ 0.02	
Fairmnt Cap Gth	152.79	160.83	+ 1.42	
Fairmount Intl	163.49	172.09	+ 0.57	
J Sel Inc/Gth Inc	57.44	60.32	+ 0.28	1.58
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	58.93	62.53†	- 0.18	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD 0800 373 393				
American Gwth	78.26	83.25	+ 0.80	
Dragon Growth	75.23	80.45	- 0.27	0.35
Equity High Inc	90.12	95.87†	+ 0.11	4.09
-do- Accum	126.84	134.94	+ 0.15	4.09
Extra Income Inc	26.32	27.66	+ 0.19	7.39
Extra Income Acc	27.88	29.13	+ 0.20	7.39
European Gwth	61.29	65.03	- 0.06	1.03
Evergreen	30.19	32.38	+ 0.25	
General Equity	98.04	105.08	+ 0.70	2.88
Japan Growth	50.45	53.67	- 1.01	
Pedigree Gwth	60.38	64.23	+ 0.71	2.53
Ped Sm Coc Inc	35.78	38.06	+ 0.50	1.44

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Income #	200.52	213.31	+ 2.84	4.01
UK Growth	77.92	82.99	+ 1.25	2.07
International	87.86	93.45†	+ 0.65	0.45
Ecology	100.63	107.05	+ 2.16	1.00
European	173.60	184.43	+ 1.91	
Far Eastern	312.80	332.70	- 2.40	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 222 4342				
Maldon General	161.10	165.40		2.75
For Manulife see Canada Life				

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	98.41	101.90†	+ 0.80	7.64
Gilt Yield	115.50	121.80†	- 1.70	6.98
Global Income	232.30	247.00†	- 0.40	3.51
High Yield	150.30	159.90	- 1.00	5.61
-do- Accum	478.20	508.70	- 3.00	5.61
Smlr Cos Dw	58.50	62.23†	+ 0.80	3.33
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	144.80	154.00	+ 2.70	
Asian Growth	360.90	383.90	- 0.70	0.21
-do- Accum	424.10	451.20	- 0.70	0.21
North American	105.60	112.30	+ 2.40	0.23
European Special	124.00	131.90	- 2.00	0.09

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD 01244 680 066				
M & S Inc Ptolio	172.10	177.40	- 0.70	2.24
-do- Accum	201.90	208.20	- 0.90	2.24
UK Sel Ptolio	151.40	156.10	- 0.40	2.47
-do- Accum	180.00	185.50	- 0.60	2.47
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD 01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	72.98	77.64	+ 0.55	3.75
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	82.15	87.21†	+ 0.48	3.82
European	100.50	106.70†	+ 0.10	0.77

هكذا من الاصل

German able to relax as early spotlight falls on championship rivals

Schumacher shines in the shadows

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN MELBOURNE

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER was in a jovial mood here yesterday. He joked with Gerhard Berger, smiled broadly when Jacques Villeneuve said how pleasantly surprised he was that not all Formula One drivers were robots and then hitched a lift on the back of a forklift truck in the pit-lane. He is usually a stranger to such levity.

After all Ferrari's pre-season problems, the delays, the engine blow-ups and the technical problems, Schumacher's happy countenance betrayed the fact that the final stages of the team's build-up to the Australian grand prix tomorrow have not quite been the apocalypse everyone was suggesting. That realisation seems to have lifted a weight from his shoulders.

The young German looks like a beacon now when he walks through the paddock, resplendent in his bright red uniform. That apart, though, he has attained a measure of welcome anonymity. Everyone loves a winner and they have got Damon Hill and Villeneuve marked down as this weekend's possible victors. The Williams duo are mobbed by a crush of photographers and journalists outside their garage, but, at Ferrari, it is all quiet.

Hill and Villeneuve still have a clear advantage in their Williams-Renaults. They are better prepared than the rest, swapping the lead at the top of the list of times during the early practice sessions, but they can already hear the approaching thunder of the hooves of the Prancing Horse.

After a negligible amount of testing in this year's car, Schumacher found himself less than a second off the pace set by Hill in the final session yesterday, close behind Villeneuve and Jean Alesi, in a Benetton-Renault. His teammate, Eddie Irvine, was seventh quickest, but still very much in touch. If this is Ferrari at their least prepared, they are not in bad shape.

There is still the issue of reliability, of course, and they may suffer for their lack of testing miles during the race, but their early competitiveness prompted Schumacher to think for a few seconds before caution got the better of him and he denied again he had any chance of winning the drivers' title for a third year in succession.

"If we had a lot of luck, then maybe we could dream about that," Schumacher said, "but I am not a dreamer. I am a realistic person. We have done hardly any miles and we are not quite on the pace. I can't really change my mind about the championship because we cannot expect to solve all our problems in a couple of months.

"But we have managed to get quite a lot of running in already this weekend and done a little bit of catching up. I am optimistic. I can see the light at the end of the tunnel and it is getting brighter and brighter."

Irvine said the atmosphere in the team's garage was "stressed" as they tried desperately to make up for lost time. "You would not believe how much work we have to do," he said, "but we have got to be encouraged by the fact that we are so close to the rest. It does not look too bad."

After Villeneuve, who scuttles around the paddock looking like Hill's kid brother on a day-trip, had set the quickest time on Thursday, Hill put him in his place yesterday, producing a blistering lap close to the end of the afternoon session and boosting his confidence for the one qualifying session today.

"The pace is definitely hotting up now," he said. "Everyone is getting to explore the circuit in a bit more depth, so it is getting quite exciting.

"Jacques has adapted very well to Formula One and it is obvious he is going to be a real title contender. I have had some pretty good teammates already, though, so that is nothing new. It is going to be a very close, competitive season. We have a slight advantage now, but things are going to get much tighter."

Schumacher, in a Ferrari, leads Hill during practice yesterday for the Australian Grand Prix, but Hill recorded the day's fastest time

CAR 96

A full guide to the grand prix season appears in *Car 96* today, with tomorrow's race previewed in detail by Jonathan Palmer, the BBC commentator and ex-Formula One driver. There is also a chance to enter a great new grand prix competition, with prizes worth thousands of pounds to be won.

PRACTICE TIMES

1, D Hill (GB) Williams Renault, 1min 32.159sec (avg speed 128.696mph); 2, J Villeneuve (Can) Williams Renault,, 1:32.396; 3, J Alesi (Fr) Benetton Renault, 1:32.475; 4, M Schumacher (Ger) Ferrari, 1:33.007; 5, R Barrichello (Br) Jordan-Peugeot, 1:33.480; 6, G Berger (Austria) Benetton Renault, 1:33.528; 7, E Irvine (GB) Ferrari, 1:33.592; 8, J Verstappen (Holl) Footwork Hart, 1.33.640; 9, D Coulthard (GB) McLaren Mercedes, 1:33.846; 10, M Hakkinen (Fin) McLaren Mercedes, 1 33.935; 11, M Salo (Fin) Tyrrell Yamaha, 1:33.992; 12, H-H Frentzen (Ger) Sauber Ford, 1:34.068; 13, M Brundle (GB) Jordan Peugeot, 1:34.007; 14, O Panis (Fr) Ligier Mugen Honda, 1:34.156; 15, J Herbert (GB) Sauber Ford, 1:34.664; 16, U Katayama (Japan) Tyrrell Yamaha, 1:34.857; 17, R Rosset (Br) Footwork Hart, 1:35.011; 18, P Diniz (Br) Ligier Mugen Honda, 1:35.121; 19, P Lamy (Por) Minardi-Ford, 1.35 145; 20, G Fisichella (It) Minardi Ford, 1:35.477; 21, L Badoer (It) Forti Ford, 1:39.141; 22, A Montermini (It) Forti Ford, 1:43.506.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Britain signs pact to improve standards

THE Olympic governing bodies of Great Britain and Australia yesterday signed an agreement to promote greater co-operation in physical fitness and sport. The pact, called a "memorandum of understanding", governs a two-way exchange of information on coaching, medicine, science and other technical matters relating to high performance in sport.

It was signed in London by the British Olympic Association chairman, Craig Reedie, and John Coates, the president of the Australian Olympic Committee. "This agreement is designed to promote the spirit and ethics of the Olympic movement," Reedie said afterwards. "Our goal is to achieve sporting excellence for both our countries and give more men and women the opportunity to develop their skills."

Rowlands celebrates

BOWLS: Wales avoided the wooden spoon in the home international indoor bowls series at Auckinleck yesterday, surviving a shaky start to beat Ireland 132-102, winning on five of the six rinks. It was reason to celebrate for Phil Rowlands, of Cardiff, who this week became the third generation of the Rowlands family to captain his country, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Tom, and father, Keith. Last night, Scotland, the holders, seemed to have the title sewn up when they led England 112-79 with only 21 ends left to play.

Giles returns to action

HOCKEY: Calum Giles returns to hockey today, after recovering from a hernia operation, as a substitute in Havant's second team and, if all goes well, he could be on the bench for tomorrow's national league first division match against Teddington. Teddington need to win to be free of relegation worries. Southgate play East Grinstead while, Cannock, their rivals for the championship, visit Hounslow.

Blue boats on Thames

ROWING: The Oxford University Boat Race crew will lead off the 106 eights in the Reading Head of the River today and are clear favourites to retain their title. They will be followed by a Leander crew stroked by Mark Partridge, a lightweight international. Cambridge will be in action further down the river, on the Boat Race course, involved in races with Imperial College, who were marginally faster than Oxford in meetings a month ago.

A close run thing

ATHLETICS: At least three leading members of the Great Britain senior squad for the world cross country championships in South Africa on March 23 will compete in the English national championships in Newark today. Andrew Pearson, Chris Sweeney and Alison Wyeth will run against the advice of David Clarke, the British men's team manager, who feels it is too close to the world championships.

Hazell wins for Kent

BOWLS: Sandy Hazell, of the Mote Park club, Maidstone, won the English women's national indoor singles championship yesterday, beating Jean Baker, of South Forest, Nottinghamshire, 21-8 at Banister Park, Eastleigh. Hazell took a 7-0 lead and, with Baker unable to find a consistent range, the Kent bowler left her opponent trailing with a scoring burst of 3-3-2 in mid-match.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

FA Cup
Fifth-round replay
(-) Tottenham v Nottingham Forest
Sixth round
(-) Chelsea v Wimbledon

FA Carling Premiership
(-) Aston Villa v Queens Park Rangers
(1) Everton v Coventry
(2) West Ham v Middlesbrough

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	28	19	4	5	52	26	61
Man Utd	29	18	6	5	56	29	60
Liverpool	28	16	7	5	56	24	55
Aston Villa	29	15	7	7	42	26	52
Arsenal	29	13	9	7	39	27	48
Tottenham	28	13	9	6	35	25	48
Everton	29	13	7	9	44	30	46
Chelsea	29	11	10	8	35	31	43
Nottm Forest	28	11	10	7	38	39	43
Blackburn	29	12	6	11	43	34	42
West Ham	29	11	6	12	33	39	39
Leeds	27	11	5	11	33	39	38
Middlesbrough	29	9	7	13	28	39	34
Sheff Wed	29	7	8	14	39	49	29
Wimbledon	28	6	8	14	40	56	26
Coventry	28	5	11	12	35	51	26
Man City	29	6	8	15	21	43	26
Southampton	27	5	10	12	27	40	25
QPR	29	6	4	19	24	44	22
Bolton	29	5	4	20	29	58	19

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
(3) Barnsley v Ipswich
(-) * Charlton v Millwall
(4) Crystal Palace v West Bromwich
(-) Huddersfield v Luton
(-) Leicester v Grimsby
(5) Norwich v Portsmouth
(-) Port Vale v Southend
(6) Sheffield Utd v Stoke
(7) Sunderland v Derby
(8) Tranmere v Birmingham
(9) Watford v Oldham
(10) Wolverhampton v Reading

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derby	35	17	13	5	55	37	64
Sunderland	33	15	12	6	41	25	57
Charlton	33	13	13	7	46	38	52
Stoke	32	14	10	8	45	34	52
Crystal Palace	33	12	13	8	47	40	49
Huddersfield	32	13	10	9	45	37	49
Southend	34	13	9	12	39	42	48
Barnsley	33	12	11	10	43	48	47
Ipswich	31	12	10	9	57	46	46
Leicester	33	11	13	9	49	47	46
Millwall	35	11	11	13	34	45	44
Portsmouth	34	11	10	13	54	54	43
Birmingham	32	11	10	11	42	42	43
Norwich	34	10	11	13	44	43	41
Wolves	33	10	11	12	43	44	41
Tranmere	32	10	10	12	42	38	40
Grimsby	32	9	12	11	35	46	39
Sheff Utd	35	9	11	15	41	50	38
Reading	32	8	14	10	36	40	38
Luton	33	9	10	14	31	44	37
Oldham	31	8	12	11	39	35	36
West Brom	32	10	6	16	38	51	36
Port Vale	30	7	12	11	35	42	33
Watford	32	5	12	15	32	45	27

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cheltenham v Sutton; Gresley v Baldock; Halesowen v Chelmsford; Hastings v Worcester; Ilkeston v Crawley; Merthyr v Gloucester; Newport AFC v Cambridge City; Stafford v Gravesend and Northfleet; Sudbury Town v Salisbury; VS Rugby v Atherstone. Midland division: Bilston v Buckingham Town; Bury Town v Bridgnorth; Dudley Town v Moor Green; Hinckley Town v Bedworth; Nuneaton v Paget R; RC Warwick v Stourbridge; Solihull v Corby; Sutton Coldfield v Kings Lynn; Tamworth v Redditch. Southern division: Clevedon v Poole; Fareham v Forest Green; Havant v Erith and Belvedere; Sittingbourne v Weymouth; Tonbridge Angels v Bashley; Trowbridge v Ashford; Witney v Newport IoW; Yate v Margate.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Barrow v Leek; Bishop Auckland v Gainsborough; Blyth Spartans v Witton; Buxton v Accrington Stanley; Droylsden v Knowsley; Emley v Bamber Bridge; Guiseley v Marine; Hyde v Chorley; Matlock v Colwyn Bay; Spennymoor v Boston; Winsford v Frickley. First division: Alfreton v Leigh; Ashton United v Gretna; Atherton LR v Eastwood Town; Bradford Pk Ave v Curzon Ashton; Congleton v Worksop; Farsley Celtic v Great Harwood; Fleetwood v Warrington; Harrogate Town v Lancaster; Whitley Bay v Radcliffe; Workington v Lincoln United.

Second division
(11) Blackpool v Notts County
(12) Brentford v Wrexham
(13) Bristol City v Burnley
(14) Chesterfield v Brighton
(15) Crewe v Bristol Rovers
(16) Hull v Bournemouth
(17) Oxford Utd v Bradford
(18) Rotherham v Swansea
(19) Shrewsbury v Wycombe
(20) Stockport v Peterborough
(—) Swindon v Walsall
(21) York v Carlisle

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon	31	19	9	3	53	22	66
Crewe	32	18	7	7	59	36	61
Blackpool	33	17	10	6	51	30	61
Notts County	30	16	9	5	42	23	57
Chesterfield	29	15	7	7	44	31	52
Oxford Utd	32	14	8	10	42	31	50
Bristol Rovers	33	14	8	11	42	43	50
Wrexham	32	12	13	7	49	38	49
Stockport	34	13	10	11	44	37	49
Bradford	32	13	6	13	44	49	45
Bristol City	34	11	11	12	37	43	44
Wycombe	33	10	12	11	41	41	42
Bournemouth	33	12	5	16	36	48	41
Shrewsbury	33	11	7	15	43	48	40
Brentford	33	10	10	13	31	38	40
Peterborough	32	10	9	13	46	46	39
Burnley	30	10	9	11	42	42	39
Rotherham	33	10	9	14	38	47	39
Walsall	31	10	9	12	35	29	39
York	31	8	9	14	36	48	33
Swansea	34	7	11	16	32	58	32
Carlisle	32	7	10	15	39	52	31
Brighton	33	7	9	17	31	49	30
Hull	32	3	11	18	23	51	20

ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Barking v Thame; Barton Rovers v Abingdon Town; Berkhamsted v Oxford City; Billericay v Chesham; Bognor Regis v Whyteleafe; Maidenhead United v Heybridge Swifts; Marlow v Basingstoke; Ruislip Manor v Aldershot Town; Staines v Leyton Pennant; Uxbridge v Tooting and Mitcham; Wokingham v Wembley. Second division: Bracknell v Bedford T; Chalfont St Peter v Cheshunt; Collier R v Wivenhoe; Edgware v Metropolitan Police, Egham v Leatherhead. Hampton v Dorking; H Hempstead v Ware; Hungerford v Tilbury; Saffron Walden v Croydon; Witham v Canvey Island. Third division: Camberley v Windsor and Eton; East Thurrock v Tring; Flackwell Heath v Cove; Harefield v Hertford; Hornchurch v Kingsbury; Horsham v Wealdstone; Leighton v Clapton; Lewes v Northwood; Southall v Harlow; Wingate and Finchley v Aveley.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Cemaes Bay; Bangor City v Cwmbran; Caernarfon v Afan Lido; Connah's Quay v Llansantffraid; Flint Town v Briton Ferry (2.30); Llanelli v Conwy; Newtown v Barry (2.30); Porthmadog v Caersws; Ton Pentre v Holywell.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon U v Maldon; Bowers v Romford; Brentwood v East Ham; Concord v Sawbridgeworth; Ford United v Southend Manor; Great Wakering v Stansted.

Third division
(22) Barnet v Chester
(23) Cambridge Utd v Plymouth
(24) Cardiff v Fulham
(25) Colchester v Bury
(26) Darlington v Torquay
(27) Exeter v Doncaster
(28) Gillingham v Preston
(29) Hartlepool v Mansfield
(30) Lincoln v Wigan
(31) Northampton v Scarborough
(32) Rochdale v Leyton Orient
(33) Scunthorpe v Hereford

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gillingham	33	17	10	6	39	14	61
Preston	32	15	13	4	61	30	58
Darlington	34	14	13	7	41	32	55
Plymouth	34	14	11	9	50	37	53
Chester	32	14	10	8	54	37	52
Bury	32	14	10	8	47	37	52
Wigan	34	14	8	12	46	45	50
Colchester	33	11	14	8	43	39	47
Doncaster	33	13	8	12	39	44	47
Northampton	33	12	10	11	37	34	46
Barnet	34	10	14	10	39	37	44
Hereford	31	10	13	8	42	35	43
Exeter	33	9	14	10	35	37	41
Rochdale	32	10	10	12	44	41	40
Lincoln	33	9	12	12	36	53	39
Cardiff	34	10	9	15	33	43	39
Hartlepool	33	9	11	13	35	43	38
Scunthorpe	32	9	10	13	43	45	37
Mansfield	32	7	16	9	40	51	37
Leyton Orient	33	10	7	16	33	45	37
Fulham	33	7	15	11	41	46	36
Scarborough	34	7	15	12	33	43	36
Cambridge Utd	32	9	8	15	43	55	35
Torquay	32	4	11	17	25	56	23

Vauxhall Conference
(34) Altrincham v Woking
(35) Bath v Morecambe
(36) Hednesford v Farnborough
(37) Kettering v Gateshead
(38) Kidderminster v Welling
(39) Macclesfield v Halifax
(40) Runcorn v Dover
(41) Slough v Dagenham and Red
(42) Southport v Bromsgrove
(43) Stalybridge v Stevenage
(44) Telford v Northwich

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Beaconsfield SYCOB v Amersham; Brook House v Croydon; Hillingdon Borough v Woolwich; Waltham Abbey v Barkingside; Willesden (Hawkeye) v Hanwell. League Cup: Semi-finals, first leg: St Margaretsbury v Tufnell Park; Brimsdown v Corinthian-Casuals.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Potters Bar v Milton Keynes; Harpenden v Brache Sparta; Letchworth v Buckingham Athletic; Arlesey Town v Hoddesdon, Langford v Shillington; Hatfield v Biggleswade; Toddington v Welwyn Garden.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Whitstable; Corinthian v Slade Green; Cray v Ramsgate; Crockenhill v Sheppey; Greenwich v Deal; Tunbridge Wells v Herne Bay.

Bell's Scottish League
First division
(—) Dumbarton v Dunfermline
(—) Greenock Morton v Hamilton
Second division
(51) Ayr v Montrose
(—) Forfar v Berwick
(52) Queen Of South v East Fife
(53) Stenhousemuir v Clyde
(54) Stirling v Stranraer
Third division
(55) Albion v Livingston
(56) Brechin v Queen's Park
(57) Cowdenbeath v Ross County
(58) East Stirling v Arbroath

Tennents Scottish Cup
Fifth round
(—) Aberdeen v Airdrie
(—) Caledonian Thistle v Rangers
(at Tannadice Park)

Icis League
Premier division
(—) Aylesbury v Hitchin
(—) Chertsey v Bishop's Stortford
(—) Dulwich v Walton and Hersham
(—) Grays v Boreham Wood
(—) Harrow v Yeading
(45) Hayes v Enfield
(46) Kingstonian v Carshalton
(47) Molesey v Bromley
(48) Sutton United v Hendon
(49) Worthing v Purfleet
(50) Yeovil v St Albans

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bristol Manor Farm v Bideford; Chippenham v Torrington; Paulton R v Taunton. Les Phillips Cup: Third round: Mangotsfield v Minehead. Quarter-finals: Barnstaple v Elmore; Calne v Tiverton; Westbury v Brislington.

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacton v March; Diss v Tiptree; Felixstowe v Sudbury Res, Great Yarmouth v Stowmarket; Hadleigh United v Soham; Harwich and Parkeston v Watton; Haverhill v Cornard; Newmarket v Fakenham; Wisbech v Lowestoft; Woodbridge v Halstead, Wroxham v Sudbury.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Andover v Aerostructures; BAT v Petersfield; Bemerton Heath v Cowes Sports, Christchurch v East Cowes; Eastleigh v Portsmouth; Ryde Sports v Lymington; Swanage and Herston v Gosport; Thatcham v Downton; Whitchurch v Brockenhurst; Wimborne v Totton.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel v Burgess Hill; Crowborough v Hailsham, Hassocks v Horsham YMCA; Langney Sports v Oakwood; Pagham v Peacehaven and Telscombe; Portfield v Mile Oak; Southwick v Ringmer; Stamco v Wick, Three Bridges v Shoreham; Whitehawk v Eastbourne Town.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Carthusians v Foresters; Chigwellians v Reptonians; Etonians v Cholmeleians; Malvernians v Aldenhamians. First division: Brentwoods v Bradfieldians; Salopians v Wykehamists; Witleians v Haileyburians.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Bicester v Swindon Supermarine; Brackley v Almondsbury; Burnham v Kintbury, Carterton v Banbury; Cirencester v Didcot; Fairford v Lambourn Sports; Highworth v Abingdon United; North Leigh v Endsleigh; Tuffley v Shortwood.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Eynesbury; Desborough v Long Buckby; Kempston v Stotfold; Mirrlees Blackstone v Bourne; Newport Pagnell v Stamford; Potton v Cogenhoe; Raunds v Holbeach; Spalding v St Neots; S and L Corby v Wootton; Wellingborough v Northampton Spencer.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND FOOTBALL ALLIANCE: Barwell v W Mid Police; Chasetown v Bolehall; Halesowen v Knypersley; Hinckley Athletic v Shifnal; Rushall v Pershore; Sandwell v Oldbury; Shepshed v Boldmere St M; Stratford v Blakenhall; Willenhall v Rocester.

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Bloxwich v Handrahan Timbers; Coleshill v Meir KA, Coventry Sphinx v Upton; Highgate v Alvechurch Villa; Massey Ferguson v Wellesbourne; Southam v Ansells; Shirley v Knowle; Studley BKL v Chelmsley. Carlsberg Cup: Fourth round: Kings Heath v Colletts Green.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Gornal v Tividale; Ludlow v Stafford; Lye Town v Cradley Town; Malvern v Walsall Wood; Pelsall v Bloxwich; Stourport v Lichfield; Wednesfield v Darlaston; Westfields v Brierley Hill; Wolverhampton v Hill Top.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v Thackley, Arnold v Hallam; Denaby v Brigg Town; Goole v North Ferriby; Liversedge v Belper Town; Maltby MW v Ossett Town, Ossett Albion v Hatfield Main; Pickering v Hucknall; Sheffield v Glasshoughton Welfare; Stocksbridge PS v Ashfield.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers v Salford; Chadderton v Penrith; Eastwood H v Bootle; Maine Road v Glossop North End; Rossendale v Clitheroe; St Helens v Nantwich; Skelmersdale v Prescot. League Cup: Fourth round: Atherton Collieries v Holker Old Boys; Darwen v Burscough. Flixton v Trafford; Newcastle Town v Mossley

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington Terriers v Crook; Billingham v Stockton; Chester-le-Street v Guisborough; Dunston Federation v West Auckland; Ferryhill v Consett; Peterlee v Durham; RTM Newcastle v Whickham; Seaham Red Star v Eppleton CW; Tow Law v Murton.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Portsmouth v Norwich (2.0).

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Galway v Dundalk (7.0)

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Quarter-final: Finn Harps v Bohemians (7.30).

BASS IRISH CUP: Quarter-finals: Crusaders v Linfield; Glenavon v Carrick; Glentoran v Ballymena; Portadown v Ards.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v Norwich; Cambridge Utd v Leyton Orient; Chelsea v Southend; Fulham v Gillingham; Ipswich v Charlton Ath; Tottenham Hotspur v Millwall; Watford v Portsmouth; West Ham v QPR.

AFA SENIOR CUP: Semi-finals: Civil Service v Old Ignatians; Old Actonians Association v Old Tenisonians.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Clapham v Old Aloysians; Latymer v Old Isleworthians; Old Hamptonians v Old Danes; Old Meadonians v Glyn. Senior first division: Old Suttonians v Chertsey; Old Tiffinians v Old Salvatorians; Old Vaughanians v Shene; Phoenix v Old Wilsonians.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: East Barnet OG v Kew Association; Old Esthameians v Norsemen; South Bank v Crouch End Vampires; West Wickham v Nat West Bank; Winchmore Hill v Carshalton. Second division: Lensbury v Midland Bank; Old Latymerians v Lloyds Bank; Old Lyonian v Alexandra Park; Old Parkonians v Old Bromleians; Old Parmiterians v Barclays Bank. Old Stationers v Polytechnic. Third division: Alleyn OB v Reigate Priory; Bank of England v Cuaco; Brentham v Old Westminster Citizens; Merton v Broomfield; Old Salesians v Southgate Olympic.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Albanian v St Mary's College; Nottsborough v Hale End Athletic; Old Grammarians v Ulysses; Parkfield v Old Owens; Witan v Southgate County.

SCHOOLS MATCHES (10.30 unless stated): Under-15 international: England v Spain (at Wembley 3.0). FA Premier League under-18 trophy: Devon v Surrey (at Torquay FC, 3.0). London Cup: Essex v Buckinghamshire. English Croydon Cup: Semi-final: Croydon v Gravesham. Kent Cup: Semi-final: Bexley v Dartford; Medway v Maidstone. Pickford Shield: Semi-final: Portsmouth v Southampton. Vale Cup: High Wycombe v Vale of White Horse. Shew Cup: Ipswich v W Suffolk. Cotswolds League: Mid Oxon v Newbury. BP League: Gloucester v Southampton. Cheshire Senior Cup: Semi-final: S Cheshire v Kirkby Knowsley. Merseyside Cup: Sefton v Halton. Woodward Cup: Blackpool v Kirkby Knowsley. Green Cup: Sefton v St Helens. Yorkshire Trophy: Barnsley v Hull. Snickers under-19 trophy: St Cuthberts HS, Northumberland v Ridge Danyers College, Gtr Manchester. Northern Merit: Leeds v Blackpool. Hereward Trophy: S Leicester v S Notts. English Goodyear under-16 trophy: St Francis Xavier, Merseyside v Lacon Childe, Shropshire; Mooreside, Greater Manchester v Warbreck, Lancashire, (11.0). Vernon League: Crosby v St Helens; Kirkby v Skelmersdale; Wirral v Liverpool. London Pear Trophy: Semi-final: N Kent v Islington. Essex Johnson Cup: Basildon v Redbridge (10.0). Inter-Association: Bolton v Chester; Barking v Gosport; Newham v Bermondsey; Nottingham v Sheffield, S Notts v Doncaster; Sunderland v Derby. Green Trophy: Blackburn v Chorley, Burnley v Pendle. Manchester Cup: Semi-final: Manchester v Wigan. West Midlands League: Stoke v West Bromwich; Coventry v Kings Norton.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Championship play-offs (6.30): Basingstoke v Sheffield; Nottingham v Fife; Durham v Humberside; Newcastle v Cardiff. Promotion/relegation play-offs: Blackburn v Bracknell (6.0); Guildford v Milton Keynes (6.0); Slough v Dumfries (6.30). Swindon v Manchester (5.30).

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Birmingham v Newcastle (7.30); Worthing v Derby (8.0).

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight championship: Steve Collins (Dublin, holder) v Neville Brown (Burton-on-Trent) (Green Glens Arena, Millstreet).

LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society League: Premier division: Timperley v Cheadle; Poynton v Heaton Mersey; Sheffield Steelers v Hulmeians; Stockport v Old Waconians.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

CIS county championship
Semi-final
Lancashire v Warwickshire
(at Preston Grasshoppers)

CIS under-21 county championship
Semi-finals
East Midlands v Middlesex
(at Northampton, (4.45)
Yorkshire v Gloucestershire
(at Otley, 2.15)

Courage Clubs Championship
First division
Wasps v Harlequins (3.0)
Second division
Bedford v Newcastle (3.0)
Moseley v London Irish (3.0)
Nottingham v London Scottish (3.0)
Fourth division
Clifton v Aspatria (3.0)
Leeds v Exeter (3.0)
Plymouth v Liverpool St Helens (3.0)
Walsall v London Welsh (3.0)
Fifth division north
Broughton Park v Stoke (3.0)

Heineken League
First division
Aberavon v Treorchy
Abertillery v Pontypridd
Bridgend v Neath
Cardiff v Ebbw Vale
Newbridge v Llanelli
Newport v Swansea
Second division
Caerphilly v Ystradgynlais
Dunvant v Bonymaen
Llandovery v Cross Keys
Maesteg v Llanharan
South Wales Police v Abercynon
Tenby Utd v Pontypool

THIRD DIVISION: Blackwood v Builth Wells; Glamorgan Wndrs v Penarth, Kenfig Hill v Cardiff Inst. Mountain Ash v Tredegar; Pyle v Narberth; Tondu v Blaina.

Tennents 1556 Cup
Third round
Watsonians v Edinburgh Acads (3.0)

Tennents Championship
Regional League
South
Kelso v Gala (3.0)
East one
Haddington v Preston Lodge (3.0)
Musselburgh v Edinburgh Wndrs (3.0)
East two
Dundee HSFP v Corstorphine (3.0)
Gordonians v Heriots FP (3.0)
Stewart's Mel FP v Kirkcaldy (3.0)
West
Kilmarnock v Glasgow HK (3.0)
West of Scotland v Glasgow South (3.0)
Wigtownshire v Ayr (3.0)

Club matches
Berry Hill v Lichfield (3.0)
Blackheath v Rosslyn Park (3.0)
Boroughmuir v Stirling County (3.0)
Bradford and Bingley v Sheffield (3.0)
Cheltenham v Esher (3.0)
Coventry v Saracens
Henley v Ealing (3.0)
Jed-Forest v Grangemouth (3.0)
Kendal v Durham City (3.0)
Met Police v Havant (3.0)
Middlesbrough v Otley (3.0)
Northampton v Richmond (3.0)
Orrell v Morley (3.0)
Rotherham v West Hartlepool (3.0)
Waterloo v Sale (3.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Semi-final
St Helens v Widnes
(at Wigan, 2.15)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division (2.30). Dudley Hill v Wigan St Patricks; Heworth v West Hull, Lock Lane v Egremont; Mayfield v Hemel Hempstead; Millom v Leigh Miners Welfare; Woolston v Saddleworth

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Trojans v Old Loughtonians (Stoneham Lane 1.0). Second division: University v Slough (St Edward's School, noon)

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Halifax v Harrogate; Norton v Ben Rhydding, Sheffield Bankers v Formby; Timperley v Neston; Warrington v Southport.

NISSAN IRISH CUP: Semi-finals: Holywood '87 v Avoca (Olympia LC, 1.0); Lisnagarvey v Cork COI (Blaris, 2.30).

WOMEN'S CENTENARY INTERNATIONAL: Ireland v England (Belfield, Dublin, 1.0)

REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Cambs C v Saracens; Ipswich v Sevenoaks; Loughtonians v Harleston, WGC v Bexleyheath. West: Redland v Cheltenham.

WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Zone one (Silksworth, 10.30) Durham v LCL; Northumb v Humberside; Manc Lge v Yorkshire; Sheffield Lge v Cumbria. Zone two (Bournemouth, 10.30) Glos v Cornwall; Devon v Dorset; Herefords v Somerset; Dorset v Glos; Somerset v Devon. Cornwall v Herefords.

CLUB MATCHES: Blackburn v Ben Rhydding; Blueharts v Ealing. Clifton v Swansea, Crimson R v Olton; Deeside v Poynton; Exmouth v Bracknell; Reading v West Witney; St Albans v Wimbledon; Sheffield v Sherwood; Woking v Canterbury.

THE TIMES
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TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA Cup
Sixth round
Leeds v Liverpool (4.0)

Tennents Scottish Cup
Fifth round
Celtic v Dundee Utd (3.15)

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Quarter-finals: Cork v Sligo; Derry v Shelbourne (3.15); Wayside C v St Patrick's Ath (3.15)

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Frome

NORTH WEST COUNTIES FLOODLIT TROPHY: Semi-final, first leg: Penrith v Mossley

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National League: Everton v Liverpool F C Ladies; Millwall Lionesses v Ilkeston.

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE CUP: Final: Wembley v Doncaster Belles

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Huddersfield v Garswood St Helens; RTM Newcastle v Bronte. Southern division: Brentford v Berkhamsted; Three Bridges v Southampton Saints; Leyton Orient v Town and County

RUGBY UNION

CIS county championship
Semi-final
Surrey v Gloucestershire
(at Imber Court, 2.45)

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Barford Tigers v Surbiton (Holyhead Leisure Centre, 1.0); Bournville v Canterbury (Birmingham University, 2.30); Guildford v India Gymkhana (Kings Manor School, noon), Hounslow v Cannock (Chiswick, 2.0); Reading v Hull (Sonning Lane, 2.0); Southgate v East Grinstead (Broomfield School, 2.0); St Albans v Stourport (Clarence Park, 2.0); Teddington v Havant (Teddington School, 1.30) Second division: Beeston v Firebrands (Highfields, Nottingham, 2.0). Blueharts v Isca (Hitchin Boys School, 2.0); Brooklands v Olton and West Warwickshire (Georges Road, Sale, 2.0); City of Portsmouth v Doncaster (Alexandra Park, 1.30); Edgbaston v Bromley (Birmingham University, 12.30); Hampstead and Westminster v Crostyx (Paddington Recreation Ground, 12.30). Oxford University v Richmond (St Edwards School, 2.30); Sheffield v Harleston Magpies (Abbeydale Park, 2.30), Slough v Gloucester City (Wexham School, 2.0)

WOMENS CENTENARY INTERNATIONAL: Ireland v England (Belfield, Dublin, 2.0)

WOMEN'S WELSH CUP: Quarter-final: Llanelli v Cardiff Ath

WOMENS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Zone one (Silksworth, 9.30) Durham v Manc Lge; Lancashire v LCL; Humberside v Sheffield; Lancs v Northumb; Cheshire v Durham. Zone two (Bournemouth, 10.30) Glos v Devon; Herefords v Dorset; Somerset v Glos; Devon v Herefords. Zone three (Bisham, 9.30) Oxon v Berks, Shropshire v Suffolk, Staffs v Oxon, Suffolk v Derbys, Berks v Staffs. Zone four (Bedford, 11) Kent v Leics, Sussex v Warwicks, Kent v Northants, Sussex v Middx.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Championship play-offs: Fife v Sheffield (6.30), Nottingham v Basingstoke (7.30), Cardiff v Durham (6.15); Humberside v Newcastle (5.45). Promotion/relegation play-offs: Bracknell v Guildford (5.15); Milton Keynes v Blackburn (6.0), Dumfries v Swindon (5.30), Manchester v Slough (6.0)

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester v Worthing (5.0), Sheffield v Doncaster (5.15); Thames Valley v Hemel (8.0).

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Mayrhofen	0	65	fair	varied	closed	sun	-2	2/3
(Sunny skiing; most pistes still skiing well)								
Saalbach	65	75	hard	spring	good	sun	-6	5/4
(Odd worn patch but mostly good; hard-packed snow)								
St Anton	65	190	good	varied	good	fine	1	1/3
(Pistes well-groomed and skiing well; good moguls)								
Söll	40	80	good	varied	fair	sun	2	4/3
(Good skiing in all main areas; sunny)								
FRANCE								
Les Arcs	85	200	good	heavy	icy	sun	-2	26/2
(Hard-packed snow with occasional icy patch)								
Tignes	115	210	good	varied	hard	sun	-8	2/3
(Pistes hard first thing but still generally good)								
Val Thorens	130	200	good	varied	good	fine	-3	2/3
(Good piste skiing on majority of runs)								
SWITZERLAND								
Grindelwald	15	90	fair	crust	worn	sun	6	1/3
(Good snow at altitude but worn at lower levels)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

Chief's Song in tune for Sandown test

By Richard Evans, Racing Journalist of the Year

JULIAN HERBERT

Norman Conqueror, carrying the colours of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, wins the Horse And Hound Grand Military Gold Cup at Sandown yesterday

THE Sunderlands Imperial Cup traditionally supplies the final piece of the Cheltenham jigsaw and today's renewal at Sandown offers punters an excellent chance of topping up their Festival betting banks. During the past 11 years three winners of the two-mile handicap hurdle — Floyd, Moody Man and Olympian — have gone on to win at Cheltenham and Chief's Song looks to have a bet-inducing chance of completing the first leg of the double.

Simon Dow has always held his six-year-old in high regard and had Alderbrook fallen by the wayside in the run-up to Cheltenham the Epsom trainer would have seriously considered running Chief's Song in the Champion Hurdle. Best on good ground over a stiff two miles, he opened his account for the season at Cheltenham in November when defeating Putty Road and Backgammon. Eleven days later he followed up under Richard Dunwoody when beating Eskimo Nel a short head in the William Hill Hurdle over today's course and distance.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: CHIEF'S SONG
(4.05 Sandown Park)
Next best: Fassan
(1.45 Ayr)

Against 21 rivals, he displayed considerable gameness that day in a higher standard of race than this afternoon's. Although he subsequently disappointed in The Ladbroke, the soft ground at Leopardstown and an interrupted preparation were to blame.

There have been no hitches in the run-up to today and with Dunwoody booked to ride, Dow is exuding quiet confidence. "The preparation has gone very smoothly and he's fit and well. He did his last piece of work on Tuesday and has a lot going for him in the race," he said yesterday.

Silver Groom has been the subject of considerable ante-post support during the week. Reg Akehurst's runner will also appreciate the better ground but he is not the most fluent hurdler. At Ascot last year he was beaten eight lengths by Chief's Song and is only 4lb better off. Eskimo Nel was involved in a ding-dong battle with my selection at Sandown but is only 1lb better off and suffered a bad fall in the Tote Gold Trophy.

The Imperial Cup is often won by a lightly raced hurdler towards the foot of the handicap and Tennessee King is an interesting outsider. A winner at Ludlow last season, he subsequently split Non Vintage and Mack The Knife and is more than two stone better off with Non Vintage here.

Away from the television cameras, Dark Stranger could offer some value when making his chasing debut in the Llangibby Novices' Chase at Chepstow (2.30). A winner on the Flat in France two years ago, Charlie Brooks's recruit confirmed the promise shown on his hurdling debut when winning at Haydock 15 days ago. He is reported to have schooled well over fences at home and, as a five-year-old, is particularly well treated at the weights.

Bell's Life is due a change of luck, more than any other horse in training, having been forced out when in contention at Uttoxeter last month before being brought down at Newbury eight days ago when travelling well. With a strong pace ensured by the front-running James The First, Philip Hobbs's well-handicapped charge should go well.

Draborgie doubt

BOOKMAKERS yesterday suspended betting on the Guinness Arkle Trophy Chase at Cheltenham next Tuesday in the face of considerable doubts about the participation of Draborgie, the 2-1 favourite, trained by Martin Pipe (Julian Muscat writes).

Pipe was non-committal about the mare's prospects of making the line-up and unusual betting patterns prompted William Hill to draw stumps. "The alarm bells started ringing when punters wanted to cancel their bets on Draborgie and there was money for the next three in the betting," David Hood, the firm's racecourse representative, said.

In other Cheltenham Festival news, Jason Titley is likely to take the ride on the outsider Squire Silk, trained by Andy Turnell, in the Smurfit Champion Hurdle, also on Tuesday. Paul Carberry, Squire Silk's regular rider, misses the mount because of suspension.

General Rusty to shine after lengthy absence

CHEPSTOW
BBC1

1.00: Silver Standard, from an in-form stable, makes most appeal against some out-of-form opponents. The mare is more effective at longer trips but may overcome that handicap in this company. Selatan has claims if, as seems likely, David Gandolfo's horse improves for tackling 2½ miles for the first time. He stayed well on the Flat.

1.30: This should concern the top three in the handicap, with **King Lucifer** narrowly preferred to Sister Stephanie and Major Bell. King Lucifer would almost certainly be Cheltenham-bound but for his tendency to make mistakes. He blundered away a winning chance last time but is worth support on his favoured surface here. Major Bell boasts two narrow victories in as many starts over fences but looks a shade high in the weights. Sister Stephanie, another prone to jumping errors, has the most scope and rates a bigger danger.

2.00: Backgammon may finally have got his act together and two recent victories should have lifted his confidence. Teinein's two victories have come in handicaps, for which he qualified after a series of placed efforts in novice company. He has place prospects. Lake Kariba probably failed to stay here last time, and merits respect back over this shorter trip.

JULIAN MUSCAT

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

SANDOWN
CHANNEL 4

2.25: Having steered Norman Conqueror to success here for the Queen Mother yesterday, Major Ollie Ellwood can complete a notable double on another Tim Thomson Jones-trained runner. **Keel Row** has run two solid races at Nottingham and Fakenham and this stiffer track should bring about further improvement.

The front-running Nocatchim has claims on his best form, but disappointed at Fakenham last time. Bone Setter boasted decent hurdles form at the start of this season and is one for the short list, but Stan Mellor's gelding's last four runs have been over fences and he has not raced for 96 days. Kelly Mac is not badly handicapped, but is probably best on a sharper track.

3.30: Senor El Betrutti is marginally preferred to Spanish Light. The slight worry is today's distance as Susan Nock's impressive novice has been showing his best form over half-a-mile further, but the front-running seven-year-old has plenty of pace and has been running in better class races than his rivals.

Spanish Light won over three miles earlier this term but is almost certainly better over shorter trips and ran out an easy winner from Fiftysevenchannels over today's trip on soft ground at Haydock two weeks ago. Lord Dorcet was travelling well when unseating his rider four out at Wetherby last time, but has more to do here.

4.05: See above.

4.40: Arthur's Minstrel jumped better than usual when winning over course and distance three weeks ago and should confirm the form with second-placed Cuddy Dale in spite of a 2lb swing in the weights for three-quarters of a length.

However, in a race which looks tricky, **General Rusty** gets the narrow vote despite not having raced for 147 days. Charlie Mann's chaser still holds a Cheltenham Gold Cup entry which shows the high regard in which the progressive eight-year-old is held. He jumps boldly and stays well.

King Credo, formerly a useful hurdler, has never really taken to the larger obstacles and preference is for Gilpa Valu. Jenny Pitman's gelding can be forgiven his latest effort when pulled up at Wincanton, as he ruined his chance with a bad early blunder.

RICHARD EVANS

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Sandown Park

Going: good

2.00 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Him Of Praise (J A McCarthy, 9-1); 2, Zephyrus (5-2), 3, Injectabuck (14-1) Crown Equerry 13-8 fav. 10 ran. 4l, ½l. O Sherwood. Tote: £14.10; £3.30, £1.10, £2.40 DF: £34.50 Trio: £35.50. CSF: £30.06.

2.35 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Smiling Chief (T Dascombe, 11-2); 2, Maestro Paul (100-30). 3, Flapjack Lad (13-2) Herbert Buchanan 9-4 fav. 6 ran. 10l, 2l. R Hodges. Tote: £8.00; £3.00, £1.70. DF: £16.30 CSF: £21.63.

3.10 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Norman Conqueror (Major O Ellwood, 3-1); 2, Irish Bay (14-1); 3, Equity Player (10-1) Mr Boston 15-8 fav (f). 11 ran. 2½l, 5l. T Thomson Jones. Tote: £4.10; £1.40, £1.80, £2.60. DF: £25.60. Trio: £46.00. CSF: £40.77.

3.40 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Lead Vocalist (D O'Sullivan, 4-1). 2, Newton Point (4-1), 3, Father O'Brien (12-1). Native Field 11-4 fav. 8 ran. ¾l, 7l. R Rowe. Tote: £6.00: £1.90, £1.80, £2.60 DF: £12.50. CSF: £19.92. Tricast: £182.90.

4.10 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Over The Edge (Mr S Sporborg, 11-4); 2, On The Other Hand (4-6 fav); 3, Golden Mac (25-1). 4 ran. 1½l, 20l. S Sporborg Tote: £4.40 DF: £2.40. CSF: £4.88.

4.40 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Amaze (E Murphy, 9-1); 2, Pedaltothemetal (4-1 fav), 3, Relative Chance (33-1) 12 ran 3l, 2l Lady Herries Tote: £10.80; £2.80, £1.80, £18.60. DF: £26.50. Trio: £575.00. CSF: £44.75. Tricast: £1078.46.

Placepot: £1,191.70. Quadpot: £50.30.

Market Rasen

Going: good, good to soft in places

1.40 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Elite Justice (G Bradley, 13-2). 2, Hot Breeze (5-1); 3, Sharmoor (6-1) Troy's Dream 4-1 fav 12 ran 5l, 6l N Tinkler. Tote £8.80: £2.20, £2.00, £2.30. DF: £13.80 Trio: £63.10. CSF: £41.65. Tricast: £200.69. Bought in 6,000gns.

2.10 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Exemplar (R Guest, 10-1); 2, Tristan's Comet (8-1); 3, Banana Cove (11-1). Barney's Gift 4-1 fav. 11 ran. 3½l, ¾l Mrs S Smith. Tote. £9.00; £2.30, £2.10, £4.10. DF: £19.60. Trio £155.60 (part won; pool of £43.84 carried forward to 4.00 at Ayr today). CSF: £84.25. Tricast: £836.39.

2.45 (2m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Crafty Chaplain (D McCain, 11-1). 2, Tough Deal (13-2); 3, Charterforhardware (11-1) Boston Rover 5-2 fav. 8 ran. 3½l, 1¼l. D McCain Tote: £18.90, £3.70, £2.50, £3.20. DF: £35.00. CSF: £74.12 Tricast: £743.81.

3.15 (2m 4f ch) 1, Aljadeer (A Thornton, 7-2); 2, Seymour Spy (33-1); 3, East Houston (5-1) Artic Wings 5-2 fav. 11 ran. 3½l, 7l M W Easterby. Tote: £5.30; £1.60, £10.70, £2.40. DF: £188.30. Trio: £155.30. CSF: £89.99

3.50 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Tonys Gift (D Bridgwater, 5-4 fav); 2, Beau Matelot (8-1); 3, Ramsdens (5-1). 12 ran. 4l, 7l. M Pipe. Tote: £2.30: £1.50, £2.00, £1.40. DF: £6.50. Trio: £8.80. CSF: £12.53.

4.20 (3m 1f ch) 1, Percy Thrower (Mr M Rimell, 13-8 fav); 2, Another Coral (7-4); 3, Catchapenny (5-1). 6 ran. NR: Ellerton Hill. 16l, 1¼l N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £2.20; £1.30, £1.30 DF: £2.10. CSF: £5.02.

4.50 (1m 5f 110yd flat race) 1, Lucia Forte (A Thornton, 9-2); 2, Nishamira (7-1), 3, Elite Bliss (9-2). 18 ran. 3l, 6l K Bailey Tote: £5.80; £2.10, £3.40, £2.00. DF: £42.20. Trio: £17.30 CSF: £44.87

Jackpot: not won (pool of £27,859.85 carried forward to Sandown Park today).

Placepot: £295.10. Quadpot: £30.00.

Ayr

Going: good to firm

1.50 (2m hdle) 1, Uk Hygiene (P Niven, 4-1); 2, Singing Sand (3-1); 3, The Stitcher (5-1) Cittadino 9-4 fav. 14 ran. 4l, 1l. M Hammond. Tote: £10.30; £2.20, £1.10, £2.20. DF: £15.80 Trio: £20.10 CSF: £16.63

2.20 (3m 1f ch) 1, Solba (B Storey, 4-5 fav); 2, White Diamond (11-1); 3, Ask Me Later (8-1). 6 ran. 6l, 8l. C Parker. Tote. £1.60; £1.20, £1.90. DF: £5.20. CSF: £9.10

2.55 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Sierra Madrona (Mr A Parker, 5-1). 2, Celtic Breeze (5-1) Erzadjan 1-3 fav (ur). 3 ran. 2l. Mrs A Swinbank. Tote: £5.10 DF: £4.10 CSF £17.29.

3.30 (2m 4f ch) 1, Deep Decision (R Supple, 7-4 fav. Thunderer's nap); 2, One For The Pot (9-2), 3, Charming Gale (6-1). 5 ran. NR: Highlandman. 6l, 7l. P Cheesbrough. Tote: £2.10, £1.40, £2.00. DF: £5.70. CSF: £8.13.

4.00 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, Parlebiz (Mr A Robson, 4-1). 2, Reviller's Glory (5-1); 3, Eild Anoir (12-1). Risky Dee 11-10 fav (ur). 8 ran 1½l, 11l A Wight Tote £5.30; £1.60, £1.60, £7.80. DF: £15.60 CSF £22.05.

4.30 (2m hdle) 1, Sharkashka (L Wyer, 5-1); 2, Stash The Cash (7-2). 3, Grandman (8-1). Samanthan 15-8 fav. 7 ran. 4l, 5l. T Easterby. Tote: £5.90; £2.40, £2.50. DF: £9.80. CSF: £20.97.

Placepot: £162.60.

Quadpot: £55.00.

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CHEPSTOW

THUNDERER

1.00 Selatan
1.30 King Lucifer
2.00 Teinein
2.30 Seachange
3.00 Hamilton Silk
3.35 BELLS LIFE (nap)

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — SIS

1.00 WEATHERBYS LEASING DIRECTORY HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,150: 2m 4f 110yd) (8 runners) — BBC1

1	0-630F0	GOLDEN ARROW 15 (F,S) (P Mellon) I Balding 5-12-0	J Osborne	90
2	1215/5-0	GO MARY 21 (C,G,S) (Miss C Phillips) Miss C Phillips 10-11-13	R Johnson (3)	85
3	10-6002	MARINER'S AIR 14 (G,S) (Mrs P Badger) J Spearing 9-11-12	A P McCoy	97
4	P40P33-	GLAISDALE 360 (S) (J Hassall) Miss V Williams 7-11-6	R Davis	[illegible]
5	004-000	SUPREME MASTER 7 (S) (T Johnsey) Miss C Johnsey 6-10-10	L Harvey	94
6	2-1F0F3	SILVER STANDARD 9 (D,G,S) (G Lugg) T Forster 6-10-7	S Wynne	98
7	0414	SELATAN 14 (S) (Starlight Racing) D Gandolfo 4-10-2	R Dunwoody	92
8	2052/05	RAGGERTY 15 (S) (J & J Barker) Miss K Whitehouse 6-10-0	W Humphreys	80

Long handicap: Raggerty 9-11.

BETTING: 5-2 Mariner's Air, 3-1 Selatan, 4-1 Silver Standard, 6-1 Golden Arrow, 8-1 Glaisdale, 10-1 others.

1995: WITH IMPUNITY 6-10-8 C Llewellyn (5-2) N Twiston-Davies 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

GOLDEN ARROW 32l 9th to Erckule in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good to soft). GO MARY 73l 9th to Thistong Twice in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (3m 4f 110yd, soft). MARINER'S AIR 1½l 2nd to Ousel in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, heavy). GLAISDALE 24l 3rd to Distinctive in novice chase at Nottingham (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft) March 1995. SUPREME MASTER 22l 10th to Lying Eyes in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good). SILVER STANDARD 7l 3rd to Hoodwinker in handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, good). SELATAN 16l 4th to Marchant Ming in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, heavy).
Selection: SILVER STANDARD

1.30 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (Final: £13,615: 3m) (7 runners) — BBC1

1	1-22113	KING LUCIFER 28 (D,G,S) (J West) D Nicholson 7-12-0	R Johnson (3)	89
2	3242-11	MAJOR BELL 28 (F,G,S) (I Middlemiss) A Whillans 8-11-4	M Moloney	[illegible]
3	3/1-2121	SISTER STEPHANIE 8 (G,S) (Antwick Pnrs) G McCourt 7-11-4	R Dunwoody	86
4	426/22P	BOND JNR 24 (G,S) (P Barber) P Nicholls 7-11-1	A P McCoy	80
5	P64-332	BALLY CLOVER 21 (G,S) (J Williams) Miss V Williams 9-10-4	R Davis	84
6	/2315F	CHURCH LAW 22 (G) (Mrs L Taylor) Mrs L Taylor 9-10-0	R Supple	93
7	03-0533	BENDOR MARK 11 (C Courage) M Wilkinson 7-10-0	P Crowley (7)	87

Long handicap: Bendor Mark 9-7

BETTING: 7-4 Sister Stephanie, 11-4 King Lucifer, Major Bell, 5-1 Bond Jnr, 15-1 Bally Clover, 20-1 Church Law, 25-1 Bendor Mark.

1995: A N C EXPRESS 7-10-10 T Jenks (9-1) J King 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

KING LUCIFER 7¼l 3rd of 12 to River Lossie in novice chase at Newbury (3m, good to soft). MAJOR BELL beating Golden Fiddle short-head in handicap chase at Ayr (2m 4f, good). SISTER STEPHANIE beat Myblackthorn a distance in novice chase at Newton Abbot (3m 5f 110yd, heavy). BOND JNR 20l 2nd of 8 to Call It A Day in novice chase here (3m 3f 110yd, good to soft) with BALLYCLOVER (11lb better off) 13l 3rd. BALLY CLOVER 2l 2nd to Lance Armstrong in novice chase at Windsor (2m 5f, good). CHURCH LAW 59l 5th to Mr Mulligan in novice chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: SISTER STEPHANIE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Nicholson	12	41	29.3	A P McCoy	8	33	24.2
M Pipe	54	206	26.2	C Llewellyn	16	91	17.6
J Old	8	31	25.8	D Bridgwater	9	56	16.1
Mrs J Retter	6	26	23.1	Only qualifiers			
P Hobbs	17	74	23.0				
J King	4	21	19.0				

2.00 BEAUFORT NOVICES HURDLE (5-Y-O: £13,745: 2m 110yd) (13 runners) — BBC1

1	06-0366	ALLAHRAKHA 10 (BF) (M Hill) Mrs J Retter 11-5	D Gallagher	50
2	621	AMBLESIDE 21 (CD,S) (B Yin) Mrs S Williams 11-5	S McNeill	88
3	21-5621	AROUND THE GALE 8 (S) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 11-5	R Dunwoody	83
4	3-04411	BACKGAMMON 5 (D,F,G) (W Sturt) J Old 11-5	J Osborne	98
5	0P030-P	BEYOND THE STARS 46 (B) (Mrs B Smith) G Smith 11-5	Mr B Potts	50
6	412833	DIVERTIMENTO 21 (D,S) (B Wood) J Mackie 11-5	E Husband	93
7	20	LAKE KARIBA 21 (T Curry, P Barber, M Coburn) P Nicholls 11-5	R Johnson	77
8	20	LORD ROOBLE 56 (The Findon Partnership) J Gifford 11-5	P Hide	73
9	U	MONKEY'S WEDDING 11 (Mrs S Kavanagh) H Kavanagh 11-5	W Humphreys	–
10	04-4530	ROVESTAR 8 (G Burr) J King 11-5	G Upton	75
11	34-4114	TEINEIN 44 (D,BF,S) (S Sainsbury) T Forster 11-5	A P McCoy	[illegible]
12	5230-5	UP IN FLAMES 8 (M Kilner) M Hammond 11-5	D Bridgwater	55
13	01-	ROUFONTAINE 17F (S) (D Dear) W Muir 11-0	M Richards	–

BETTING: 7-4 Backgammon, 3-1 Around The Gale, 6-1 Ambleside, 8-1 Teinein, 12-1 Divertimento, 14-1 Lake Kariba, Lord Rooble, 16-1 others.

1995: CHALLENGER DU LUC 11-5 R Dunwoody (4-1) M Pipe 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

AMBLESIDE beat Coralette 3½l in 11-runner novice hurdle over course and distance (soft). AROUND THE GALE beat Intermagic 15l in 7-runner novice hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, heavy). BACKGAMMON beating Beaumont 3l in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good). DIVERTIMENTO 15l 3rd of 7 to Simply Dashing in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good). LAKE KARIBA 36l 7th of 15 to Jet Rules in Grade 2 Persian War Novice Hurdle here (2m 4f 110yd, soft). LORD ROOBLE 15l 2nd of 14 to Potentate in maiden hurdle over course and distance (soft) penultimate start. TEINEIN 16¼l 4th of 8 to Keep Me In Mind in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to soft). UP IN FLAMES 23½l 5th of 11 to Erzadjan in handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 2f, good to soft). ROUFONTAINE beat Twice A Night 2½l in National Hunt Flat Race at Market Rasen (1m 5f 110yd, good to soft) March 1995.
Selection: AROUND THE GALE

2.30 LLANGIBBY NOVICES CHASE (£2,915: 2m 3f 110yd) (8 runners)

1	12/315U	CASTLE COURT 8 (S) (Mrs D Thompson) N Gaselee 8-11-9	C Llewellyn	[illegible]
2	3-03U12	PETE THE PARSON 10 (C,S) (W Sturt) J Old 7-11-9	J Osborne	98
3	5PU1U3	EMRAL MISS 8 (B,S) (Mrs J Bennett) C Popham 8-11-4	T Dascombe (5)	85
4	1/1-U	MY MAIN MAN 44 (F,G,S) (Mrs S M-Bennetts) Mrs S Messer-Bennetts 8-11-2	A Thornton	–
5	P-0	PHAEDAIR 108 (Capt E Edwards-Heathcote) P Hobbs 6-11-2	G Tormey (3)	–
6	0R121-F	SEACHANGE 9 (G,S) (A Steven) M Wilkinson 7-11-2	R Supple	–
7	/F3/0F0	SHEEP STEALER 134 (G) (Datum Building Supplies Ltd) R Peacock 8-11-2	V Slattery	–
8	41	DARK STRANGER 15 (S) (T Neill) C Brooks 5-10-7	D Gallagher	–

BETTING: 9-4 Seachange, 3-1 Dark Stranger, 4-1 Castle Court, 5-1 Pete The Parson, 6-1 My Main Man, 16-1 Emral Miss, 20-1 others

1995: SPUFFINGTON 7-11-10 E Murphy (4-5 fav) J Gifford 3 ran

3.00 CURRE JUVENILE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (4-Y-O: £3,556: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

1	12	HAMILTON SILK 47 (G) (Elite Racing Club) M Pipe 12-0	J Osborne	96
2	104	GREENSPAN 28F (S) (Camelot Racing) W Muir 11-11	M Richards	93
3	06351	FANTASTIC FLEET 8 (B,S) (Miss J Doyle) Miss J Doyle 11-9	S Curran (3)	97
4	4001	FORESTAL 26 (S) (S Griffiths) S Griffiths 11-4	D Gallagher	97
5	5202	SWIVEL 23 (B) (Mrs C Smith) D Nicholson 11-4	R Johnson (3)	90
6	062640	SHEPHERDS REST 10 (The Odd Dozen) S Mellor 10-12	A Thornton	98
7	663106	ZINGIBAR 14 (V,D,S) (D Holpin) J Bradley 10-10	Guy Lewis (3)	[illegible]
8	064	EIGHT SHARP 21 (The Gemini Partnership 3) M Hammond 10-2	B Powell	89

BETTING: 9-4 Hamilton Silk, 7-2 Fantastic Fleet, 4-1 Swivel, 6-1 Forestal, 8-1 Greenspan, 10-1 others.

1995: KARLINE KA 4-10-8 D Meredith (8-1) R Dickin 7 ran

3.35 COTSWOLD VALE CHASE (Handicap: £3,462: 2m 3f 110yd) (7 runners)

1	24-6065	KENTISH PIPER 4 (CD,F,G,S) (M Gibson) N Gaselee 11-12-0	C Llewellyn	90
2	F410U4	JAMES THE FIRST 8 (F,G,S) (B Bowman) P Nicholls 8-11-11	Guy Lewis (3)	98
3	3-04PU2	PLASTIC SPACEAGE 7 (CD,G,S) (Spaceage Plastics Ltd) J Old 13-11-11	J Osborne	98
4	21114/0	RAFIKI 8 (CD,F,G,S) (J Carrington) Mrs J Retter 11-11-6	D Gallagher	–
5	00-4P46	NEVADA GOLD 7 (F,G,S) (Maltsword Ltd) F Yardley 10-11-6	P McLoughlin	[illegible]
6	6-3UP1P	KINGS CHERRY 12 (CD,S) (T Swaffield) R Buckler 8-11-1	B Powell	94
7	5-145RB	BELLS LIFE 8 (S) (R Gibbs) P Hobbs 7-10-10	G Tormey (3)	–

BETTING: 9-4 Bells Life, 11-4 Plastic Spaceage, 4-1 James The First, 8-1 Kentish Piper, Nevada Gold, 10-1 Rafiki, 12-1 Kings Cherry

1995: KENTISH PIPER 10-11-11 C Llewellyn (Evens fav) N Gaselee 3 ran

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Carlisle (first race, 2.10), Plumpton (2.20), Taunton (2.00)
TUESDAY: Cheltenham (C4, 2.15), Sedgefield (2.00), Windsor (2.10).
WEDNESDAY: Cheltenham (C4, 2.15), Huntingdon (2.40), Newton Abbot (2.00).
THURSDAY: Cheltenham (C4, 2.15), Hexham (2.00), Lingfield Park (AW, 2.30).
FRIDAY: Fakenham (2.10), Folkestone (2.00), Wolverhampton (AW, 2.20).
SATURDAY: Hereford (2.20), Lingfield Park (2.25), Newcastle (2.15), Uttoxeter (2.00), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00).

Flat meetings in bold

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER

1.55 The Major General
2.25 Coralette
2.55 Bone Setter
3.30 Spanish Light
4.05 Amancio
4.40 Cuddy Dale
5.15 Adept Flyer

Carl Evans: 1.55 The Major General.

GOING: GOOD (CHASE COURSE); GOOD TO SOFT (HURDLES) — SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

1.55 DICK McCREERY HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,684: 2m 4f 110yd) (5 runners)

101	362/P-PF	HICKELTON LAD 9 (D,F,G) (Miss B Palmer) D Williams 12-12-0	D Ellwood (7)	–
102	22-21	ON THE BEER 6P (G) (H Hill) S Sporborg 8-12-0	S Sporborg (7)	87
103	/6/360-P	SOME OBLIGATION 4 (F,G,S) (D Wilson) C Nimmo 11-12-0	D Alers-Hankey (7)	[illegible]
104	0/33F2-4	THE MAJOR GENERAL 15 (R Ogden) G Richards 9-12-0	A Ogden (7)	93
105	13/P2	TRUE STEEL 14P (G,S) J Trice-Rolph 10-12-0	J Trice-Rolph (5)	–

BETTING: 13-8 On The Beer, 3-1 True Steel, 7-2 The Major General, 6-1 Some Obligation, 9-1 Hickelton Lad.

1995: EASTSHAW 13-10-11 Mr C Ward Thomas (Evens fav) T Forster 3 ran

2.25 HIGH SPEED PRODUCTION NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£3,761: 2m 110yd) (15 runners)

201	002-U41	DECIDE YOURSELF 15 (D,S) (D Wilson) T Thomson Jones 6-11-7	G Bradley	92
202	01-	BEST OF FRIENDS 290 (G) (J McGrath) Miss H Knight 6-11-2	J F Titley	–
203	42	CORALETTE 21 (BF) (Lady Lloyd Webber) N Henderson 6-11-2	M A Fitzgerald	[illegible]
204	3	FAR SPRINGS 113 (A Solomons) K Bailey 5-11-2	T J Murphy (3)	92
205	4	FELLOO 15 (Mrs J Edwards-Heathcote) T George 7-11-2	T Jenks	79
206	200	GENERAL JACKIE 58 (M Jackson) J Gifford 6-11-2	L Aspell (5)	67
207	240	HARLEQUIN CHORUS 65 (Harlequin Software) J Old 6-11-2	J R Kavanagh	–
208		JAVELIN COOL (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 5-11-2	K Gaule (3)	–
209	10-0034	MAITRE DE MUSIQUE 28 (S) (R Ogden) A Turnell 5-11-2	P Carberry	90
210	2/6-2	MANDALAY 10 (Auld Alliance) J Old 7-11-2	J A McCarthy	89
211	U03	NAUTICAL GEORGE 15 (Mrs E Ellis) J Upson 6-11-2	C Maude	72
212	2-030	TAKE COVER 28 (A & M Barnett) M Tompkins 5-11-2	W Marston	–
213	2-152	HENRIETTA HOWARD 10 (F) Mrs D Haine 6-10-11	G Hogan (3)	90
214	00-0	LAKOTA 23 (Wishful Thinkers) C Jones 6-10-11	D Walsh (5)	–
215	P0	ALL OVER RED ROVER 45 (G Roberts) A Carroll 4-10-8	Mr J Culloty (5)	–

BETTING: 7-2 Decide Yourself, 5-1 Coralette, 11-2 Mandalay, 8-1 Far Springs, Henrietta Howard, Maitre De Musique, 10-1 Felloo, 12-1 others.

1995: FOODBROKER STAR 5-11-0 P Hide (16-1) J Gifford 10 ran

2.55 BARCLAYS BANK HANDICAP HURDLE (Amateurs: £4,297: 2m 110yd) (9 runners) — C4

301	1122-3P	SOCIETY GUEST 15 (D,F,G,S) (R Webster) A Turnell 10-11-10	A Ogden (7)	91
302	352183	BLAZON OF TROY 19 (D,F,G,S) T T Jones 7-11-5	Miss V Haigh (7)	92
303	P03P00	HAPPY HORSE 23 (F,G,S) (I Manning) R Hodges 9-11-4	G Wheeler (7)	93
304	321U21	BONE SETTER 96 (D,F,G,S) (Lord Leverhulme) S Mellor 6-11-2	D Alers-Hankey (7)	89
305	43354-P	MACEDONAS 23 (CD,F,G,S) (R Wheate) G Thorner 8-10-11	C Ward Thomas (7)	[illegible]
306	133250	NOCATCHIM 22 (V,D,F,G,S) (P Gray) K Morgan 7-10-7	Joanna Holmes (7)	98
307	5403-55	KEEL ROW 22 (G) (Queen Elizabeth) T Thomson Jones 6-10-7	D Ellwood (7)	91
308	6-56104	KELLY MAC 5 (D,S) (Mrs V O'Brien) D O'Brien 6-10-7	J Wingfield Digby (7)	94
309	26-4140	STAPLEFORD LADY 100 (F) (C Kyriakou) J Moore 8-10-7	NON-RUNNER	94

Long handicap: Nocatchim 10-6, Keel Row 10-6, Kelly Mac 10-6, Stapleford Lady 9-11

BETTING: 5-2 Keel Row, 7-2 Bone Setter, 9-2 Blazon Of Troy, 6-1 Society Guest, 8-1 Nocatchim, 10-1 Kelly Mac, 12-1 Happy Horse, 20-1 others

1995: JURZ 7-11-3 Mr J Trice Rolph (4-1) R Hodges 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

SOCIETY GUEST 8¾l 3rd of 13 to Dress Dance in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft) on penultimate start, with BLAZON OF TROY brought down 3rd. BLAZON OF TROY 9½l 3rd of 9 to Melnik in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f, soft). HAPPY HORSE 83l 8th of 13 to Samlee in novice chase at Taunton (3m, soft). BONE SETTER beat Nadiad 1½l in 7-runner novice chase at Ludlow (2m, good to firm). MACEDONAS 29½l 4th of 7 to Star Market in amateurs' handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, good to firm), May 1995. KEEL ROW 3¾l 5th of 13 to Manolete in handicap hurdle at Fakenham (2m, good) with KELLY MAC (2lb worse off) 8½l 8th and NOCATCHIM (2lb better off) 2l 9th. KELLY MAC 9l 4th of 11 to Nessun Doro in conditionals handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, soft).
Selection: BONE SETTER

3.30 BURNT OAK & SPECIAL CARGO NOVICES CHASE (£4,440: 2m) (4 runners) — C4

401	61411U	LORD DORCET 10 (D,BF,F,G,S) (J Hogg) J Charlton 6-11-10	A P McCoy	80
402	60-61P1	SENOR EL BETRUTTI 35 (C,F,G,S) (G Nock) Mrs S Nock 7-11-10	G Bradley	[illegible]
403	122141	SPANISH LIGHT 14 (D,F,G,S) (J Barlow) G Richards 7-11-10	R Dunwoody	91
404	F41421	AEDEAN 10 (D,G,S) (M Orpen-Palmer) G Enright 7-11-6	J R Kavanagh	64

BETTING: 11-10 Senor El Betrutti, 9-4 Lord Dorcet, 3-1 Spanish Light, 14-1 Aedean.

1995: KING CREDO 10-11-2 J F Titley (7-2) S Woodman 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

LORD DORCET beat Pimberley Place 2½l in 7-runner novice chase at Ascot (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start. SENOR EL BETRUTTI beat Campeche Bay 1½l in Grade 1 Scilly Isles Novice Chase here (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). SPANISH LIGHT beat Fiftysevenchannels 20l in novice chase at Haydock (2m, soft). AEDEAN beat Pete The Parson 1¼l in novices handicap chase at Nottingham (2m, good).
Selection: SENOR EL BETRUTTI

4.05 SUNDERLANDS IMPERIAL CUP (Handicap hurdle: £20,990: 2m 110yd) (11 runners) — C4

501	11126F	ESKIMO NEL 28 (D,G,S) (First Chance) J Spearing 5-12-0	D Gallagher	95
502	0-U0110	CHIEF'S SONG 56 (CD,G) (Mrs A Devine) S Dow 6-11-13	R Dunwoody	95
503	12/10	WARM SPELL 28 (D,BF,G) (Sun Punters Club) G L Moore 6-11-11	A P McCoy	95
504	P3-0821	KINGSFOLD PET 7 (D,G,S) (Exors of G Nye) M Haynes 7-11-6	D Skyrme	98
505	32P-100	SILVER GROOM 49 (CD,F,S) (Silver Darlings) R Akehurst 6-11-6	S Ryan (7)	90
506	130036	NON VINTAGE 14 (D,G,S) (A Mann) M Chapman 5-11-5	Mr J Culloty (5)	96
507	1110/P	PONDERING 14 (V,G,S) (J Ennis) M Pipe 6-11-3	D Bridgwater	–
508	20-5002	AMANCIO 44 (CD,S) (P Locke) G Harwood 5-10-8	M A Fitzgerald	[illegible]
509	2-83201	KING'S CROSS 35 (D,S) (N Harvey) A J Wilson 7-10-4	L Harvey	91
510	35123-F	TENNESSEE KING 14 (D,S) (D Armitage) A Foster 6-10-0	W Marston	85
511	632343	HOLY WANDERER 9 (D,F) (Gain Partners) T George 7-10-0	G Hogan (3)	90

Long handicap: Holy Wanderer 9-13.

BETTING: 4-1 King's Cross, 5-1 Silver Groom, Warm Spell, 11-2 Kingsfold Pet, 6-1 Chief's Song, 10-1 Eskimo Nel, 12-1 Non Vintage, 14-1 others

1995: COLLIER BAY 5-10-2 T Grantham (6-1) J Old 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

ESKIMO NEL 9l 6th of 9 to Thornton Gate in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, soft) on penultimate start. CHIEF'S SONG beat ESKIMO NEL (1lb better off) short-head in 22-runner handicap hurdle over course and distance (good) penultimate start. WARM SPELL beat Frickley 4l in 12-runner handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m, good) on penultimate start, with SILVER GROOM (12lb better off) 55l 9th. KINGSFOLD PET beat Tejano Gold 2l in 11-runner handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft). NON VINTAGE best effort this term 7l 3rd of 18 to Squire Silk in Grade 3 Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft) with WARM SPELL (6lb worse off) 27l 8th and ESKIMO NEL fell 5th. Earlier 23l 13th of 22 to Dance Beat in Grade 1 Ladbroke Handicap Hurdle at Leopardstown (2m, heavy). AMANCIO 6l 2nd of 8 to Keep Me In Mind in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to soft). KING'S CROSS beat Golden Hello 3½l in 11-runner handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft). HOLY WANDERER 1l 3rd of 19 to Just For A Reason in conditionals claiming hurdle (2m, good).
Selection: CHIEF'S SONG

4.40 H M S SANDOWN HANDICAP CHASE (£7,068: 3m 110yd) (10 runners) — C4

601	20344P	BISHOPS HALL 105 (D,F,G,S) (T Carroll) R Alner 10-12-0	S McNeill	–
602	144364	BAVARD DIEU 15 (F,G,S) (Saguaro Stables) N Gaselee 8-11-8	M A Fitzgerald	83
603	11-2111	GENERAL RUSTY 147 (D,F,G) (M Watt) C Mann 8-11-4	R Dunwoody	94
604	25-3U41	ARTHUR'S MINSTREL 22 (CD,F,G,S) D Nicholson 9-11-3	R Johnson (3)	98
605	1-P3F40	KING CREDO 22 (C,F,G,S) (J Bolam) S Woodman 11-11-0	A P McCoy	86
606	333112/	BUCK WILLOW 888 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs S Embiricos) J Gifford 12-10-6	P Hide	–
607	3214-52	CUDDY DALE 22 (CD,F,G,S) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 13-10-3	K Gaule (3)	[illegible]
608	01-1514	SEOD RIOGA 100 (F,G,S) (S Tindall) S Mellor 7-10-1	N Mann	89
609	5-1212P	GILPA VALU 58 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Miss N Thesiger) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-0	A Bates (5)	88
610	35443	ALL CLAP HANDS 19 (Blacksmith Club) N Babbage 8-10-0	NON-RUNNER	60

Long handicap: Gilpa Valu 9-13, All Clap Hands 7-13

BETTING: 2-1 General Rusty, 7-2 Arthur's Minstrel, 6-1 Seod Rioga, 8-1 Cuddy Dale, 10-1 King Credo, Gilpa Valu, 12-1 others

1995: MR BOSTON 10-11-10 P Niven (11-8 fav) Mrs M Reveley 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

BISHOP'S HALL 28l 4th of 6 to Couldnt Be Better in limited handicap chase at Haydock (3m, good to firm) penultimate start. BAVARD DIEU 15l 4th of 11 to Super Tactics in handicap chase at Kempton (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). GENERAL RUSTY completed treble, beating Bas De Laine 9l in handicap chase at Kempton (3m, good). ARTHUR'S MINSTREL beat CUDDY DALE (2lb better off) ¾l in handicap chase over course and distance (good to soft) with KING CREDO (6lb better off) 17l 7th. BUCK WILLOW 2½l 2nd of 11 to Grange Brake in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 2f 110yd, good to firm) April 1994. SEOD RIOGA 20l 4th of 14 to Ubu Val in novice chase at Windsor (3m, good). GILPA VALU 8l 2nd of 5 to Romany Creek in handicap chase at Leicester (3m, good to firm) penultimate start.
Selection: CUDDY DALE (nap)

5.15 FLYERS STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,417: 2m 110yd) (22 runners)

1	1	HURRICANE LAMP 22 (S) (F Welch, R Barrs) D Nicholson 5-11-11	R Johnson (3)	–
2		BRAVE EDWIN (W Sturt) J Old 6-11-4	S McNeill	–
3	0	DON'T MIND IF I DO 21 (Mrs J Addison) P Webber 5-11-4	Mr P Scott (7)	–
4		FRANKS JESTER (Mrs J Ollivant) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4	A Bates (5)	–
5		JAKES JUSTICE (D and M Evans) J Gifford 5-11-4	P Hide	–
6		JOBSAGOODUN (D Ross) N Henderson 5-11-4	J R Kavanagh	–
7		LEAP FROG (R Cooper) N Gaselee 5-11-4	F Cooper (7)	–
8	2	MARCHING MARQUIS 14 (M Worcester) N Chance 5-11-4	R Dunwoody	–
9		RIVEAUX (R Ogden) F Murphy 6-11-4	P Carberry	–
10	64	SIR DANTE 22 (P Wilby) R Rowe 5-11-4	D O'Sullivan	–
11	40	STORM TIGER 14 (W Partnership) S Mellor 5-11-4	N Mann	–
12		STRONG PALADIN (Mrs A Brodie) J Gifford 5-11-4	L Aspell (5)	–
13	0-	SUPREME CRUSADER 306 W McKenzie-Coles 5-11-4	W McFarland	–
14		TANGLEFOOT TIPPLE (D Elsworth) D Elsworth 5-11-4	P Holley	–
15		ORLA'S CHOICE (J Byrne) F Murphy 6-10-13	S Poms (7)	–
16		TOOTSIE TRUE (Miss E McKechnie) D Burchell 5-10-13	D J Burchell	–
17		ANOTHER COCKPIT (Cockpit Crew) P Hobbs 4-10-10	A P McCoy	–
18		ARTIC BAY (Mrs N Duffield) Mrs P Duffield 4-10-10	Michael Hunt (7)	–
19		SHAVANO (Mrs H Veal) M Madgwick 4-10-10	B Fenton (3)	–
20		SOL MUSIC (G & P Partners) S Earle 4-10-10	D Walsh (5)	–
21	3	ADEPT FLYER 22 (Mrs P King) J King 4-10-5	G Upton	–
22		CLOSE HARMONY (Queen Elizabeth) N Henderson 4-10-5	M A Fitzgerald	–

BETTING: 3-1 Hurricane Lamp, 4-1 Marching Marquis, 6-1 Franks Jester, 8-1 Jobsagoodun, 10-1 Strong Paladin, Adept Flyer, 12-1 others

1995: LINE OF CONQUEST 5-11-8 A Tory (12-1) R Hodges 22 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Nicholson	31	88	35.2	Mr C Ward Thomas	7	20	35.0
A Turnell	7	20	35.0	Mr J Trice-Rolph	3	9	33.3
G Harwood	5	18	27.8	R Dunwoody	36	123	29.3
S Woodman	3	13	23.1	J Titley	4	14	28.6
J Old	7	31	22.6	Mr D Alers-Hankey	3	12	25.0
Miss H Knight	6	27	22.2	W Marston	5	24	20.8

Jodami misses Gold Cup

JODAMI, the 1993 Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, will miss this year's race next Thursday because of a bacterial infection. The Peter Beaumont-trained gelding will now be aimed at the Martell Grand National at Aintree on March 30, in which he is due to carry top weight in the absence of the injured Master Oats. Beaumont, who received the results of tests carried out on Jodami yesterday, said: "He has a good weight in the National and I have always thought he was a National horse. It is just that I would rather have gone to Cheltenham this year."

مكبراً من الأصل

Wales restore Jenkins at stand-off

Richards injury could disrupt English stability

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

ENGLAND, having ridden out the verbal and disciplinary storms that followed their victory over Scotland last weekend, will keep the same crew for their triple-crown encounter with Ireland at Twickenham next Saturday. However, Wales, holed below the waterline during this season's five nations' championship, take on three fresh players for the meeting with France in Cardiff.

England's reaction has been entirely predictable. They came away from Murrayfield with the result they sought, achieved in obvious style, and once Jason Leonard had been cleared of foul play by an independent arbiter on Wednesday, the likelihood of change was minimal.

Even so, it is the first time in eight internationals that England have selected the same XV in successive games. Circumstances have conspired against continuity, but one of the criticisms of the management this season has been the unsettled back row that now, with the restoration of Dean Richards, appears a more composite force.

Sadly, there remains doubt whether Richards will have recovered from the knee injury, sustained against the Scots, in time to play. The initial diagnosis was a minimum recovery period of four weeks, but the No 8 has been receiving daily treatment, his desire to retain the place denied him earlier this season is intense and, where Richards is concerned, his capacity for the game should never be under-estimated.

He will join England at Richmond this weekend in their preparations for the meeting with Ireland, though his input will be verbal rather than physical. England's medical team will assess his condition, but his prospects of being fit to train by the time the squad comes together again on Wednesday are limited.

Such was his impact on the Calcutta Cup match that the effects of his loss would be severe, even though England's self-confidence should have soared. Not only did they deny Scotland a grand slam, they put themselves in line to win the triple crown and challenge for the championship.

Wales, by contrast, are struggling to avoid a second successive whitewash. For all the plaudits their open play has attracted, they have been unable to win matches and yesterday Kevin Bowring, the coach, bit the bullet and restored Neil Jenkins to the side to play France next Saturday.

Jenkins resumes at stand-off half ahead of Arwel Thomas. Ironically, Jonathan Davies, widely tipped for a return to international rugby when he joined Cardiff from rugby league last year, makes a rare Heineken League appearance at stand-off against Ebbw Vale today.

Thomas was wretchedly out of sorts during the 30-17 defeat by Ireland last weekend. His time will come again, but now may be the time for the pragmatism — and points-scoring ability — of Jenkins.

He is joined by Gareth Thomas and Christian Loader, who displace Wayne Proctor and Andrew Lewis at left wing and loose-head prop respectively. Gareth Thomas, capped five times since making his debut against Japan during last summer's World Cup, takes nothing away from the youth of the Welsh side. Still only 21, he offers greater physical presence than Proctor in a game where victory for France is virtually certain to make them champions, on points difference.

But for injury, Jenkins, Gareth Thomas and Loader might have been fixtures all season. Loader, 22, made a brave debut against South Africa in Johannesburg last September and appeared against Fiji, but injury removed him from contention and this will be his first championship match.

Adding to the complexities of the Welsh season, their referees are on the verge of strike action. They seek an increase from 26p to 40p a mile on their travelling expenses and were due to meet Glanmor Griffiths, the Welsh Rugby Union treasurer, last night, with the threat of a boycott hanging over the Swalec Cup quarter-finals on March 23.

ENGLAND (v Ireland): M J Catt (Bath); J M Sleightholme (Bath), W D C Carling (Harlequins, captain), J C Guscott (Bath), R Underwood (Leicester/RAF); P J Grayson (Northampton), M J S Dawson (Northampton); G C Rowntree (Leicester), M P Regan (Bristol), J Leonard (Harlequins), B B Clarke (Bath), M O Johnson (Leicester), G S Archer (Bristol/Army), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps), D Richards (Leicester). Replacements: J E B Callard (Bath), P R de Glanville (Bath), K P P Bracken (Bristol), V E Ubogu (Bath), R G R Dawe (Bath), T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army).

WALES (v France): W J L Thomas (Llanelli); I C Evans (Llanelli), L B Davies (Neath), N G Davies (Llanelli), G Thomas (Bridgend); N R Jenkins (Pontypridd), R Howley (Bridgend); C Loader (Swansea), J M Humphreys (Cardiff, captain), J D Davies (Neath), E W Lewis (Cardiff), G O Llewellyn (Neath), D Jones (Cardiff), R G Jones (Llanelli), H T Taylor (Cardiff). Replacements: W T Proctor (Llanelli), A C Thomas (Bristol), A P Moore (Cardiff), S Williams (Neath), L Mustoe (Cardiff), G R Jenkins (Swansea)

Wandering Wasps so happy to be home

By David Hands

MEMBERS of Wasps will enjoy the rare sight of competitive rugby at Sudbury today. Thanks to a combination of away cup draws, bad weather and the structured season, it is four months since Wasps have played a significant game at home. Little wonder that the club president, Bill Treadwell, has felt obliged to circulate members with a letter of encouragement.

There will be a club council on March 27 when details on the "positive restructuring of Wasps" are due to be announced, including the possibility of further new signings to follow that of the former Wales lock, Glen Llewellyn. In the meantime, a XV weakened by the absence on England squad duty of Lawrence Dallaglio and injuries to Matt Greenwood and Peter Scrivener must try to avenge the early-season defeat by Harlequins in the only first-division match of the Courage Clubs Championship.

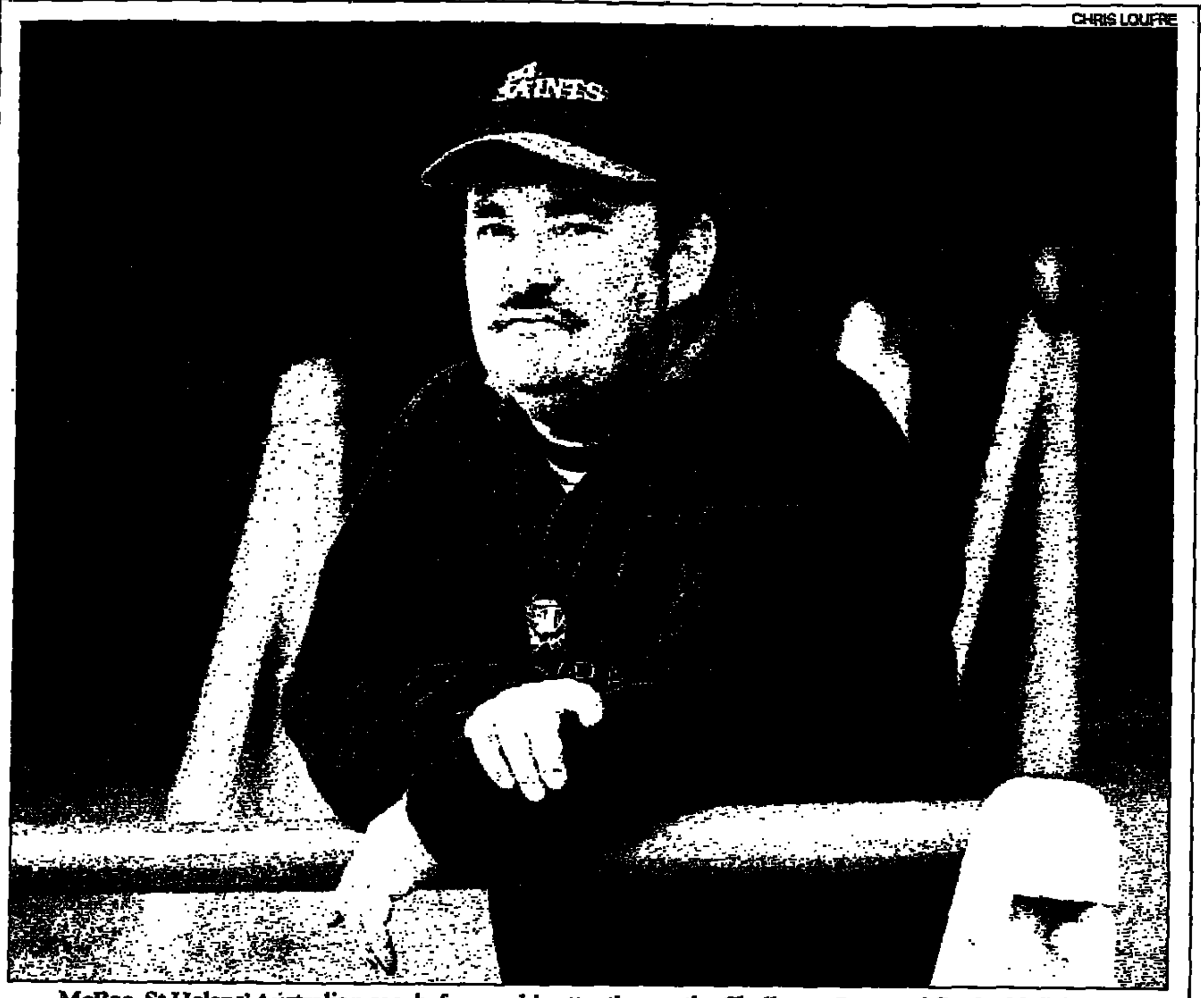
Jim Staples, Ireland's captain until suffering concussion against France last month, returns to action for Harlequins and Nick Walshe is preferred at scrum half to Rob Kitchen. Wasps bring Colin Bickle into their second row and call up Richard Pool-Jones at flanker, with Nick Greenstock bidding to refurbish his career at centre.

For the second division match at Bedford, Newcastle include the Scottish internationals Doddie Weir and Gary Armstrong for their league debuts.

Rob Andrew has agreed to play in the XV being raised by Bob Dwyer, the former Australia coach, to play Leicester in the Sanyo challenge match at Twickenham on April 21.

☐ Gavin Hastings could be making his final appearance for Watsonians in today's Tennents 1556 Cup third-round tie against Edinburgh Academicals. The former Scotland captain is to play American football for Scottish Claymores this summer.

CHRIS LOUFRE



McRae, St Helens' Australian coach, focuses his attention on the Challenge Cup semi-final with Widnes

No time like the present for McRae

Christopher Irvine on a coach concerned with the immediate challenge for St Helens

Soothsayers at St Helens point to the famous upset by Widnes in the 1930 rugby league Challenge Cup final as if that result will have a bearing on the semi-final at Wigan today. As an Australian uninhibited by history and ancient parochial rivalries, Shaun McRae is concerned only with the present.

"People have described Widnes to me as a bad draw, because it's a local derby," the St Helens coach said. "Why is it, too, that whoever you play, everyone wants to give you statistics for the last 100 years? Is it an English obsession?"

McRae arrived six weeks ago in midwinter, from an Australian summer, to the odd moan about the switch to a March-September season. "It snowed for a week, my first game was postponed and there are still people wanting to stand in the cold to watch rugby," he said.

At 36, he does not mince his words. Nor did St Helens in dismissing Eric Hughes, four days after the side's gallant submission to Wigan in the Regal Trophy final, and getting their man. Wigan's monopoly on silverware was Hughes's misfortune. McRae's good fortune became apparent within days of arriving at Knowsley Road from Canberra with Wigan's defeat at Salford.

So far, St Helens have taken advantage, but, a step away from Wembley, McRae dismisses fanciful notions. "They have been booking London hotels when all we've got is a sniff of the final. People keep talking about the Challenge Cup's enormity and that's sinking in, but all a semi-final is is the next round."

The message has been drilled into his players all week. He appreciates that St Helens have been on the brink many times before, only to suffer a fall. However, a Challenge Cup triumph 20 years after the last one might be the catalyst for a young and talented team to present a realistic challenge in the forthcoming European Super League.

The potential at St Helens was why McRae left the job of assistant coach at Canberra. He has made the comparison between the Canberra side of the Eighties and St Helens today, of copious attacking skills and often bungling defence. "You never take away innate flair, it's the basis of all top sides, but why score 50 points and let in 35? Against certain sides, you have to play more of a percentage game."

A firm believer in the benefits of hard work, McRae inherited what David Howes, the St Helens chief executive, described as a "five-year team", with an average age of 23. In Bobbie Goulding, Paul Newlove and Chris Joynt he has, arguably, the best scrum half, centre and back-row forward in the British game, allied to promising young players like Steve Prescott and Keiron Cunningham.

Up against a wily old Wembley bird in Doug Laughton, McRae is confident, yet mindful of the greater experience available to the Widnes coach. Terrace historians have informed McRae that, since the final 66 years ago, St Helens have not lost to Widnes in the competition; it is a record McRae is at pains to play down.

ST HELENS: S Prescott; A Hunte, S Gibbs, P Newlove, A Sullivan, K Hammond, R Goulding; A Perelini, K Cunningham, A Leatham, C Joynt, S Booth, A Northey

WIDNES: S Spruce, J Devereux, M Pechey, D Wright, A Thomley; C Tyrer, S Cooper; L Makin, P Gartland, L Hansen, P Hulme, P Myler, S McCurrie

Referee: R Smith (Castleford)

Charles ends long wait to claim crown

By Edward Gorman
Sailing Correspondent

AFTER a close eleven-race contest with Lawrie Smith, Glyn Charles has secured his place in the Star class in the British Olympic team. Charles, who had to overcome the psychological hurdle of having lost to Smith in Olympic trials twice before, emerged a convincing winner by a 36-point margin at the Bacardi Cup in Miami yesterday.

The Stars, in which Britain won gold in 1988, was the last class to hold trials in a series that began at the Olympic Classes Regatta, also in Miami, in January and concluded with the Bacardi series. While Smith continued to produce finishes in the teens and early twenties — as both men had done in January — Charles moved up a gear with three top ten finishes and a twelfth in the five races. His superior performance was largely due to his handling the strongish conditions on Biscayne Bay better than Smith, though he also prevailed during a race in light airs.

Charles, a former Laser national champion, spoke of his satisfaction at finally beating his old rival. "I'm relieved," he said. "We've always been the underdog and we've finally put the thing to rest." He said his improved performance was not due to any change in sailing tactics, but to a more concentrated mental approach, an area he has been working on with Frank Dick, the former national director of coaching in athletics.

"We seemed to be going faster, but we didn't set the boat up particularly differently. We just got our minds together. We kept ourselves to ourselves and got focused on it," he said. Charles is confident that he can now win a medal in Savannah in July. He ended the Bacardi in seventh place in an 80-strong fleet that included most of the best in the world. Smith finished in 22nd place.

Whitaker displays fine form in first day victory

From Jenny MacArthur
in Dortmund

JOHN WHITAKER underlined his form for the Volvo World Cup show jumping qualifier when he and his Olympic contender, Welham, relegated the European champions, Peter Charles and La Ina, to second place by 0.38sec in the WDR Prize, the main event on the opening day of the Dortmund International Show here yesterday.

The win came after a 14-horse jump-off involving many of Europe's leading partnerships. Welham, a 16-year-old gelding owned by Keeley Durham, on which Whitaker won a team silver medal at the European championship last year and finished fifth individually, jumped effortlessly around the twisting six-fence jump-off course to finish in 30.48sec. Charles went as fast as he dared, but could not match Whitaker's superbly-judged round.

The two other Britons in the 47-strong class — Geoff Billington, who had finished second on Solitaire in the opening class, and James Fisher, on Pinon Voici — failed to reach the jump-off, incurring eight and 16.50 faults respectively.

Earlier, Billington gave his Olympic contender, It's Otto, his first outing since the Berlin World Cup in November and was rewarded with a stylish clear round. "He felt fantastic," Billington said.

Michael Bullman, the chairman of the British selectors, announced his committee's policy for the Atlanta Olympic Games soon after arriving here yesterday. Nick Skelton, John Whitaker and Michael Whitaker are virtually assured of their team places, providing that their horses remain sound. Twelve riders will be "tried out" for the fourth place in three separate foreign tours from April to early June.

These include Robert Smith, who heads the five selected for the Jerez, Oviedo and La Baule shows. Billington, Di Lampard and William Funnell — three leading contenders for the fourth place — will go to the Hickstead and St Gallen Nations' Cup meetings with the two Whitakers. Peter Murphy, Tim Stockdale, James Fisher and Kelly Brown will join Skelton at the Madrid, Lisbon and Barcelona shows.

"By then, we should have selected the four," Bullman said yesterday. He intends to announce the teams in mid-June. The horses travel on July 8 to Atlanta, where the first 48 hours will be spent in compulsory quarantine at the airport.

RESULTS: WDR Prize: 1, Welham (J Whitaker, GB) 0 faults in 30.48sec; 2, La Ina (P Charles, Ire) 0 in 30.86; 3, Viking Du Tillard (H Godignon, Fr) 0 in 32.56. DEB Prize: 1, Gem Stone (M Baryard, Swe) 0 in 52.72; 2, Soldaire (G Billington, GB) 0 in 52.98; 3, Franziska (C-O Nagel, Ger) 0 in 53.78

Harding sets sights on Festival glory

Point-to-point by Carl Evans

AMATEURS with mounts at next week's Cheltenham Festival are as keen to steer clear of injury as their professional counterparts. That does not stop them riding at point-to-points this weekend but they will avoid unsafe jumpers.

Such issues are not a problem for the Honourable Dido Harding, who is not in action today. A one-horse owner-rider whose win tally reads two under Rules and seven in point-to-points, her name does not spring to mind when owners are casting around for spare jockeys.

Yet on Thursday at Cheltenham Harding has a ride in the Cheltenham Foxhunters' Chase, and in Cool Dawn partners a horse some would say is a banker. The question is whether Cool Dawn's class outweighs the inexperience of his rider.

While most top amateurs work with horses Harding thinks about holidays. As marketing director for Thomas Cook, the travel agents, her daily schedule involves jostling with commuters on the train to Peterborough. Riding is limited to weekends in Dorset, where Robert Alner trains Cool Dawn.

"Robert tells me to jog on the train so I can claim I run to Peterborough every day," she said. Sessions on a rowing machine at her Covent Garden flat are not so fanciful.

Three years ago Harding asked Alner to look for a safe ladies' point-to-pointer. Cool Dawn was bought in an Irish pub, his talents surpassing his owner's hopes while stretching her arms in races.

"He has so much speed that for 80 per cent of the race you are sitting still," Harding said. "I don't want to get in a head-to-head battle with horses like Double Silk but he does settle if there is a strong pace."

Polly Curling, resuming after a heavy fall last weekend, rides at the **Avon Vale** today and **South Dorset** tomorrow while Alison Dare, level with Curling on eight wins in the national women's table, visits the **North Ledbury** today and the **Staff College** tomorrow.

Harding: inexperienced

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Avon Vale, Barbury Castle, 2m north of Marlborough (first race, 1.00); Brecon, Llanfrynach, 3m SE of Brecon (12.00). Cottesmore, Garthorpe, 6m E of Melton Mowbray (1.00); Cumberland Farmers, Dalston, 4m S of Carlisle (12.30) Derwent, Charm Park, 6m SW of Scarborough (12.00). Essex, High Easter, 8m NW of Chelmsford (12.30): North Ledbury, Upton-on-Severn, 6m S of Worcester (12.00). Oakley, Newton Bromswold, 3m SE of Rushden (12.00). Silverton, Haldon, on Exeter NH course (12.00). S East Club, Charing, 12m E of Maidstone (1.00). Tanatside, Eyton-on-Severn, 7m SE of Shrewsbury (12.30) TOMORROW: Staff College & RMA Drag, Tweseldown, 3m W of Aldershot (12.00); South Dorset, Milborne St Andrew, on A354 SW of Blandford (1.00)

AYR

THUNDERER

1.45 Royal Expression. 2.15 Montrave. 2.50 Dancing Dove. 3.25 One For The Pot. 4.00 Meadowburn. 4.30 Golden Fiddle. 5.00 Galen.

Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.45 FASSAN.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

1.45 CRAIGIE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,884: 2m) (9 runners)

1	1224	ROYAL EXPRESSION 32F (D,F) Mrs M Reveley 11-5	P Niven
2	6533	SHINING EDGE 15 (D,F) T Easterby 11-5	L Wyer
3	006	DONT FORGET CURTIS 8 G Moore 10-12	J Callaghan
4	0	FANADIYR 105 W Storey 10-12	R McGrath (7)
5	F2	FASSAN 15 M Hammond 10-12	A Dobbin
6	0053	TEEJAY'N'AITCH 14 J Goldie 10-12	G Cahill (5)
7	0334	VINTAGE TAITTINGER 14 T Dyer 10-12	B Storey
8	0	LATCH KEY LADY 10 R Woodhouse 10-7	D J Kavanagh (5)
9		SEENTHELIGHT 59F D Moffatt 10-7	D J Moffatt

6-4 Fassan, 3-1 Royal Expression, 7-2 Shining Edge, 6-1 Teejay N'aitch, 8-1 Dont Forget Curtis, 10-1 Vintage Taittinger, 12-1 others

2.15 JOHN BROWN MEMORIAL NOVICES CHASE
(£3,223: 2m) (5)

1	4-2P	CORSTON RACER 57 (S) Mrs S Bradburne 8-11-4	T Reed
2	0435	GRAND AS OWT 14 D McCune 6-11-4	F Perratt
3	3202	MONTRAVE 19 (G) P Monteith 7-11-4	G Cahill (5)
4	0-04	OUR MAIN MAN 10 (S) R Whitaker 6-11-4	R Guest
5	0532	REBEL KING 4 (G) M Barnes 6-11-4	P Waggott

5-4 Montrave, 3-1 Our Main Man, 5-1 Rebel King, Corston Racer, 16-1 Grand As Owt.

2.50 AYRSHIRE YEOMANRY CUP HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,976: 2m 4f) (8)

1	3141	CUTTHROAT KID 40 (V,C,D,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-12	G Cahill (5)
2	1155	DANCING DOVE 91 (F,G) G Richards 6-11-9	A Dobbin
3	-346	BEND SABLE 112 (C,F,S) F Storey 6-11-7	B Storey
4	-004	COOL LUKE 15 (F,S) G Moore 7-11-2	J Callaghan
5	F066	WILLS TELMAR 8 (F,G,S) M Todhunter 8-11-2	S Haworth (7)
6	03F0	SUNDAY NEWS'N'ECHO 21 (G) W Storey 5-11-0	R McGrath (7)
7	06-1	MASTER HYDE 168 (D,F) W Storey 7-10-10	M Foster
8	32F4	CANAAN VALLEY 14 D Robertson 8-10-0	J Burke

7-4 Cutthroat Kid, 3-1 Dancing Dove, 6-1 Master Hyde, Cool Luke, 7-1 Bend Sable, 8-1 Sunday News'N'Echo, 14-1 others.

3.25 VULMIDAS TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,558: 2m) (5)

1	011F	SONSIE MO 7 (D,F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 11-11-10	A Watt (7)
2	3-40	POSITIVE ACTION 11 (CD,F,G,S) M Barnes 10-11-9	T Reed
3	0042	ONE FOR THE POT 1 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs A Naughton 11-11-6	M Foster
4	2544	BELDINE 24 (D,F,G,S) P Monteith 11-11-6	A Dobbin
5	4-06	FUNNY OLD GAME 28 (V,C,S) D McCune 9-10-0	F Perratt

6-4 Sonsie Mo, 9-4 One For The Pot, 5-2 Beldine, 6-1 Positive Action, 25-1 Funny Old Game

4.00 ROSEMOUNT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,763: 2m 6f) (16)

1	4121	BLUE CHARM 39 (F) Mrs S Bradburne 6-12-0	A Watt (7)
2	6F	BRUMON 113 T Dyer 5-12-0	A Linton (7)
3	3062	IZZA 14 (G) W Storey 5-11-7	R McGrath (7)
4	220	SHONARA'S WAY 8 P Monteith 5-11-7	G Cahill (5)
5	0003	PHARARE 10 (F) R Woodhouse 6-11-4	D J Kavanagh (5)
6	0312	MEADOWBURN 11 (F) W Reed 6-10-10	T Reed
7	0001	SEDVICTA 54 (G) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-10	P Niven
8	-050	CRAIGIE RAMBLER 28 D Robertson 7-10-9	J Burke
9	0002	SILVER SLEEVE 14 (B) M Hammond 4-10-6	L Wyer
10	R065	FINE TUNE 19 Mrs S Bradburne 6-10-5	A Dobbin
11	4450	TONY'S FEELINGS 54 (F) T Dyer 8-10-6	B Storey
12	PP4U	TRESPASSER 11 (B) J J O'Neill 7-10-3	A Roche (3)
13	3534	BLOOMING SPRING 82 Mrs D Thomson 7-10-3	L O'Hara
14	0003	ANASTASIA WINDSOR 19 (V) D Moffatt 5-10-0	S Taylor (7)
15	0060	MEADOWLECK 28 W Young 7-10-0	R Murphy (7)
16	054	SYLVAN CELEBRATION 28 J Goldie 5-10-0	D Parker (3)

7-2 Sedvicta, 9-2 Blue Charm, 6-1 Meadowburn, Shonara's Way, 8-1 Izza, Silver Sleeve, 10-1 Pharare, 12-1 others.

4.30 HUGH BARCLAY CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,872: 3m 1f) (4)

1	-022	GOLDEN FIDDLE 21 (C,S) J Oliver 8-11-10	B Storey
2	116P	VAVASIR 101 (D,F,G) Miss L Russell 10-11-8	P Niven
3	6F/P	ISLAND GALE 14 (D,S) D McCune 11-11-1	F Perratt
4	0345	GALA WATER 8 (CD,S) T Dun 10-10-6	T Reed

4-5 Golden Fiddle, 5-2 Vavasir, 4-1 Gala Water, 12-1 Island Gale

5.00 LEVY BOARD STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,544: 2m) (13)

1		BORIS BROOK R Allan 5-11-4	S Melrose (7)
2	04	BOSTON MAN 11 R Woodhouse 5-11-4	D J Kavanagh (5)
3		DUN LAW J Dun 5-11-4	D Parker (3)
4	44	GALEN 35 Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4	R Hodge
5	U	MIDAS MAN 21P D Nolan 5-11-4	Mr A McPherson
6	0	HILDA'S PET 39 R McKellar 6-10-13	M Foster
7	0	STORM CALL 35 D Whillans 5-10-13	B Harding (3)
8	0	ATAVISTIC 14 R Fisher 4-10-10	P Niven
9	45	JUST LIKE DAD 11 M Todhunter 4-10-10	A Dobbin
10		LORD LAMB Miss S Hall 4-10-10	N Bentley
11		SILVER MINX G Moore 4-10-10	J Callaghan
12		WHATASHOWMAN S Kettlewell 4-10-10	Mrs D Kettlewell
13		DISTANT HILLS J Dodds 4-10-5	R Guest

9-4 Galen, 5-1 Boston Man, 6-1 Storm Call, 7-1 Just Like Dad, 10-1 Silver Minx, 14-1 Lord Lamb, Whatashowman, 16-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 40 winners from 141 runners, 28.4%; R Allan, 3 from 11, 27.3%; G Richards, 47 from 199, 23.6%; J J O'Neill, 18 from 88, 20.5%; G M Moore, 12 from 69, 17.4%; M Hammond, 9 from 62, 14.5%.

JOCKEYS: P Niven, 35 winners from 137 rides, 25.5%; A Roche, 8 from 34, 23.5%; G Cahill, 6 from 29, 20.7%; A Dobbin, 23 from 116, 19.8%; B Storey, 23 from 166, 13.9%; L Wyer, 5 from 36, 13.9%; J Callaghan, 9 from 74, 12.2%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ayr: 3.25 Funny Old Game. Chepstow: 2.00 Beyond The Stars 3.00 Swivel. Southwell: 3.15 Margi Boo. 4.50 Elfin Queen.

CHELTENHAM ACCEPTORS

WEDNESDAY: 2.50 QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (Grade I, £80,925 2m) (8 acceptors)
Coulton (O Sherwood) Dancing Paddy (K Cunningham-Brown), Klairon Davis (A Moore, Ire), Martin's Lamp (D Nicholson), Sound Man (E O'Grady, Ire), Strong Platinum (P Burke, Ire), Travado (N Henderson) Viking Flagship (D Nicholson)

4.05 SUN ALLIANCE CHASE (Grade I: £53,223, 3m 1f) (20 acceptors)
Avro Anson (M Camacho), Betty's Boy (K Bailey), Billygoat Gruff (D Nicholson) Call It A Day (D Nicholson), Challenger Du Luc (M Pipe), Dark Honey (S Dow), Do Rightly (M Bradstock), Go Ballistic (J O'Shea) Hill Of Tullow (D Nicholson), Johnny Setaside (N Meade, Ire), Linden's Lotto (J White), Major Rumpus (A Moore, Ire), Minella Lad (A O'Brien, Ire), Mr Mulligan (N Chance), Nahthen Lad (Mrs J Pitman) Punters Overhead (P Nicholls), River Lossie (C Egerton), St Mellion Fairway (D Nicholson), Steel Mirror (A O'Brien, Ire), Tothawoods (N Twiston-Davies)

☐ There are 34 acceptors for the Coral Cup and 18 for the Mildmay Of Flete chase

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

1.10 The Lad. 1.40 Quinzii Martin. 2.10 Ijab. 2.40 Heathyards Rock. 3.15 Munaadee. 3.45 Sweet Mate. 4.20 Welsh Melody. 4.50 Seeking Destiny.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.15 Munaadee. 4.20 Dragonjoy.

GOING: STANDARD SIS

DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.10 MARBLES HANDICAP
(Div I: £3,103: 2m) (9 runners)

1	55/3	FOX CHAPEL 24 (F,S) R Juckes 9-10-0	Dale Gibson 2
2	1561	TEMPERING 8 (CD,F,G) D Chapman 10-10-0	A Culhane 7
3	-400	ROSE OF GLENN 9J (C,F,G) B Palling 5-8-13	S Sanders 4
4	0/00	BOBBY BLUE 23 (D,F) Ronald Thompson 5-8-9	S D Williams 6
5	-243	BAHER 8 Mrs A Swinbank 7-8-7	G Bardwell 3
6	0-41	THE LAD 9 (G) (D) L Montague Hall 7-8-5	Martin Dwyer (7) 1
7	-640	TAP ON TOOTSIE 8 T Wall 4-8-2	N Adams 8
8	050/	INTEABADUN 595 A Bailey 4-7-13	F Norton 5
9	5035	SELMESTON 12 P Felgate 4-7-13	D Wright (3) 9

2-1 Tempering, 3-1 The Lad, 4-1 Baher, 5-1 Fox Chapel, 10-1 Rose Of Glenn, 12-1 Tap On Tootsie, 16-1 Selmeston, 20-1 others

1.40 NOTTINGHAM PRINT FINISHERS HANDICAP
(Div I: £3,588: 7f) (9)

1	1204	SQUARE DEAL 8 (CD,G) S Bowring 5-10-0	S D Williams 3
2	-051	ALL APOLOGIES 17 (D,G) R Hollinshead 4-10-0	F Lynch (7) 5
3	020-	CEE-JAY-AY 147 (CD,F,G,S) J Berry 9-9-3	Le Tolboll 2
4	4222	AWESOME VENTURE 8 (D,S) M Chapman 6-9-3	D R McCabe (3) 7
5	-033	YO KIRI-B 28 (F) J Ffitch-Heyes 5-8-9	G Duffield 4
6	0033	QUINZII MARTIN 9 (CD,G) D Haydn Jones 8-8-9	D Wright (3) 6
7	444-	YUPPY GIRL 145 J Wilson 3-8-2	G Carter 1
8	00-0	SWANDALE FLYER 12 N Bycroft 4-7-10	G Bardwell 8
9	0654	BRANSTON KRISTY 8 (B) C Smith 4-7-10	Iona Wands (7) 9

11-4 Square Deal, 7-2 All Apologies, 4-1 Cee-Jay-Ay, 5-1 Quinzii Martin, 7-1 Awesome Venture, 8-1 Yo Kiri-B, 10-1 others

2.10 MARBLES HANDICAP
(Div II: £3,103: 2m) (8)

1	5405	CROSS TALK 19 (F) R Hollinshead 4-9-10	F Lynch (7) 7
2	500-	HOWQUA RIVER 84J P Chapple-Hyam 4-9-4	R Cody-Boutcher (7) 8
3	222-	IJAB 11J (B,C,G) J Parkes 6-9-4	G Bardwell 5
4	-204	CAPTAIN MARMALADE 37 (C,G) D Thom 7-9-1	J Tate 4
5	-034	HARD LOVE 19 (G) J Eyre 4-8-13	T Williams 8
6	22-0	CAN SHE CAN CAN 29 (F) C Smith 4-8-5	J Fanning 2
7	054/	PRINCESS TALLULAH 616 W G M Turner 5-8-5	A Daly (5) 3
8	0336	SWORDKING 8 (F,G,S) J L Harris 7-8-0	N Carlisle 1

7-4 Ijab, 9-2 Hard Love, 5-1 Howqua River, Cross Talk, 6-1 Captain Marmalade, 8-1 Swordking, 10-1 others.

2.45 CONKERS CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,583, 1m 4f) (9)

1	6-11	HEATHYARDS ROCK 19 (CD,B) R Hollinshead 4-9-7	T Ives 2
2	3-63	JEBI 11 C Murray 6-9-1	M Tebbutt 7
3	-332	PHARLY DANCER 22 (CD,BF,G) W Haigh 7-8-11	D R McCabe (3) 6
4	500-	RED O'REILLY 275 (V) J Eyre 4-8-7	T Williams 8
5	1020	ADALOALDO 19 (CD,G) J Parkes 4-8-5	P McCabe (3) 4
6	000-	BEAUCHIEF 159 R Marvin 4-8-5	S Drowne (3) 9
7	03-0	CALL ME FLASH 8 Mrs P Sly 4-8-5	G Duffield 5
8	1-25	KISMETIM 20 (D,BF,G) D Chapman 6-8-5	L Charnock 3
9	-525	ANISTOP 15 (C,BF,G) R Akehurst 4-8-3	S Sanders 1

5-4 Heathyards Rock, 7-2 Anistop, 5-1 Pharly Dancer, 7-1 Jebi, 8-1 Kismetim, 10-1 Adaloaldo, 14-1 others

3.15 EAST MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY (LINCOLN) MAIDEN STAKES
(£5,468: 1m 3f) (15)

1	-234	ALZOOMO 15 J Glover 4-9-12	S D Williams 4
2	22-	CHEVALIER 229 I Campbell 4-9-12	G Faulkner (7) 2
3	460-	CUBAN NIGHTS 115J B Llewellyn 4-9-12	S Whitworth 14
4	0-50	CULTURAL ICON 30 P Mitchell 4-9-12	A Clark 12
5	3/2-	MUNAADEE 306 Bob Jones 4-9-12	M Wigham 9
6	0	PANGERAN 29 Mrs A Swinbank 4-9-12	G Duffield 7
7	-853	YOUNG BENSON 19 B McMahon 4-9-12	L Newton (5) 3
8	0600	ANCHORENA 36 J A Harris 4-9-7	S Sanders 11
9	-000	ROYAL DANCER 8 R Weaver 4-9-7	A Daly (5) 10
10	00-4	FURTHER FUTURE 8 John Berry 3-8-5	M Fenton 5
11	23	MELTEMISON 12 C Brittain 3-8-5	M Larsen 13
12		METAL BADGE M Johnston 3-8-5	T Williams 15
13	404-	EXACTLY 159 J Eyre 3-8-0	P Fessey (5) 1
14	33-2	LOS ALAMOS 12 C Thornton 3-8-0	L Charnock 8
15	0-56	MARGI BOO 17 (B) R Juckes 3-8-0	F Lynch (7) 6

3-1 Los Alamos, 4-1 Meltemison, 5-1 Chevalier, 6-1 Metal Badge, 7-1 Exactly, 10-1 Munaadee, 12-1 others

3.45 NOTTINGHAM PRINT FINISHERS HANDICAP
(Div II: £3,574: 7f) (8)

1	-521	MY GALLERY 12 (CD,G,S) A Bailey 5-9-10	Angela Gallimore (7) 2
2	0-01	MCKELLAR 7 (D,G) T Barron 7-9-5	R Cochrane 5
3	-412	SWEET MATE 28 (B,CD,BF,G) S Bowring 4-9-4	C Teague (5) 6
4	524-	FAIRELAINE 152 A Jarvis 4-8-9	J Tate 7
5	5062	DISSENTOR 12 (V,C,BF,G) J Glover 4-8-9	G Carter 8
6	5432	SOCIETY GIRL 12 (D,F) C Thornton 3-8-4	D McKeown 3
7	00-0	CLASSIC VICTORY 7 (F) R Harris 3-8-3	D Batteate 1
8	534-	MADONNA DA ROSSI 147 M Dods 3-7-12	L Charnock 4

11-4 My Gallery, 3-1 McKellar, 7-2 Sweet Mate, 6-1 Fairelaine, 7-1 Dissentor, 8-1 Society Girl, 10-1 others.

4.20 SOUTHWELL SELLING SERIES FINAL
(Handicap: 3-Y-O: £4,026: 1m) (8)

1	-311	DRAGONJOY 29 (B,C,G) J Payne 9-7	A McGlone 2
2	1312	PEOPLE DIRECT 22 (CD,BF,G) K McAuliffe 9-1	S Sanders 6
3	3123	EFIPETITE 12 (CD,G) N Bycroft 8-13	C Teague (5) 3
4	4523	BUMBLEFOOT 15 (G) J A Harris 8-13	F Lynch (7) 7
5	3-22	WELSH MELODY 43 (B,BF,G) K Burke 8-12	T Ashley (7) 8
6	0255	ARCH ANGEL 12 (G) G Charles-Jones 8-8	P McCabe (3) 1
7	-404	SPORTING FANTASY 17 (V,F) J Balding 8-1	N Adams 4
8	3600	DOWN THE YARD 12 (F) M Chapman 7-12	P Fessey (5) 5

3-1 Dragonjoy, 7-2 Welsh Melody, 4-1 Efipetite, 9-2 People Direct, 6-1 Sporting Fantasy, 7-1 Bumblefoot, 10-1 others

4.50 SKITTLES HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,713: 6f) (15)

1	3231	GENERAL HAVEN 7 (G) T Naughton 9-12	T Ashley (7) 15
2	00-0	KING OF PEACE 12 (B) M W Easterby 9-7	G Parkin (5) 1
3	32-0	LADY ECLAT 64 (B,D,BF,G) J Glover 9-6	S D Williams 5
4	0-31	COASTGUARDS HERO 33 (CD,G) M Usher 9-4	M Wigham 7
5	05-0	LILA PEDIGO 38 (D,G) Miss J Craze 9-2	Dale Gibson 12
6	3110	SEEKING DESTINY 22 (CD,G) M Chapman 9-1	C Munday (7) 11
7	0515	MISS OFFSET 7 (B,CD,BF,G,S) M Johnston 9-0	T Williams 13
8	000-	MAITEAMIA 158 (B) S Bowring 8-11	C Teague (5) 14
9	0243	VICTORIA SIOUX 15 J Pickering 8-11	F Lynch (7) 9
10	035-	FERGAL 225 Ronald Thompson 8-11	A Daly (5) 4
11	5646	ELFIN QUEEN 10 (B) J L Harris 8-11	M Fenton 8
12	3-00	TICKA TICKA TIMING 43 (B,CD,G) B Murray 8-10	T Williams 2
13	2165	PRINCIPAL BOY 17 (C,G) T Etherington 8-9	G Carter 6
14	0644	MOGIN 28 J Ffitch-Heyes 8-6	G Duffield 3
15	-045	NAPIER STAR 26 Mrs N Macauley 7-11	N Adams 10

9-2 Seeking Destiny, 6-1 General Haven, Principal Boy, 7-1 Coastguards Hero, 8-1 Miss Offset, 10-1 Lady Eclat, 12-1 Victoria Sioux, 14-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Payne, 4 winners from 13 runners, 30.8%; R Akehurst, 6 from 22, 27.3%; K McAuliffe, 5 from 22, 22.7%; M Johnston, 35 from 185, 18.9%; K Burke, 11 from 68, 16.2%

JOCKEYS: F Lynch, 10 winners from 53 rides, 18.9%; T Ives, 23 from 128, 18.0%; R Cochrane, 26 from 176, 14.8%; M Tebbutt, 7 from 51, 13.7%; C Teague, 18 from 134, 13.4%

Saturday portrait: Dennis Wise, by Russell Kempson

Streetwise urchin who can enrich England's quest for respectability

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

In October 1994, Dennis Wise hailed a cab and almost waved goodbye to his career. He had spent an evening discussing business with Eric Hall, his agent, at Scribes West, the Kensington watering hole owned by Terry Venables, the England coach. When he left, with his girlfriend, Geraldine Lennon, he had an argument with Gerald Graham, 65, the taxi driver who had refused to take him where he wanted to go. Words were exchanged, Graham was confronted and a glass partition in the cab was broken.

Wise, the Jack-the-lad England and Chelsea midfield player, who will captain his side against Wimbledon, his former club, in an FA Cup quarter-final at Stamford Bridge this afternoon, had overstepped the mark once too often. His impish, impulsive character had got him into trouble. Again.

This time, though, it was not the Football Association and its often haphazard disciplinary system that he would stand before. This was serious, a situation that, for once, no amount of mischievous grins could diffuse.

In February last year, Wise was convicted of assault and causing criminal damage; in March, he was sentenced to three months in prison. However, after spending two hours in a cell, he was released on bail pending an appeal. "It was long enough to know what it's like to lose your freedom," he said later.

In June, he was acquitted, apparently grudgingly. Judge Gerald Butler QC, sitting with two magistrates, told him that their decision had been made "with no enthusiasm". He said that Wise, by his own admission, had behaved in a disgraceful fashion but that the evidence of Graham about the alleged assault could not be relied upon "beyond reasonable doubt".

Wise, predictably, expressed remorse and relief, Hall was "monster, monster happy" and the cosy, self-protective world of football quietly got on with business. Case closed. It was, after all, unrelated to matters on the pitch. "Times like that help you appreciate life as well as football," Wise said. "It was a time for sitting down and slowing down, to think about yourself and where you want to go. I know I could have messed it all up and nobody wants to get to the end of their career and have to face up to something like that. I've learnt from it and it's a good thing I have."

Incident, embarrassment, humility; recurring themes for the sparky son of a west London publican, Dennis Sr, and his wife, Pam. A 5ft 6in, 10st bundle of energy, living on his nerves and wits. A streetwise urchin, knowing what he wants, when he wants it and how he can get it. And always that innocent, little-boy-lost smile, swiftly disarming the fiercest critic or angriest opponent. When Southampton offered him a contract at the end of his £25-a-week apprenticeship — an opportunity most aspiring professionals would accept with gratitude — he turned it down. Lawrie McMenemy, the Southampton manager at the time, ran out of patience and showed him the door. "I wasn't treated very well," the young upstart reflected.

> 'When you want to win so badly, as he does, you sometimes cross the line'

Next stop Wimbledon, the Crazy Gang and all their laddish, loutish bravado and bizarre male bonding rituals — hiding the manager's bed in a hotel lift, playing American football in training the day before a league game.

"He was an infectious, lively lad, full of enthusiasm," Dave Bassett, then the Wimbledon manager, said. "He was like one of those annoying flies you want to swat. In one of his first games for us, when we beat Sheffield United 5-0, he got involved with Ken McNaught, who kicked him and got sent off. Peter Withe also got the hump, chucked the ball at him and got sent off. Then, in the last minute, he missed a penalty. Typical Dennis, always in the thick of it."

Bassett happily endured the numerous wage demands and transfer requests, the petulant outbursts and off-the-field scrapes, the rough with the smooth — as did Bobby Gould, his successor. In September 1988, Wise was fined £150 after he had indulged in a spot of illegal panel-beating on the door of a fellow motorist's car. In May 1990, he was fined £200 and banned from driving for a year after he had refused to provide a breath specimen when stopped by police.

Yet, off road, Wise's spiky effervescence, scurrying endeavours and clench-fisted inspiration easily counter-acted his short-fused temperament. They brought him success, too, with an FA Cup-winner's medal in 1988, a first international call-up, in Bobby Robson's England squad for the Rous Trophy, and, eventually, a £1.6 million move to Chelsea. "When I left, it was an emotional moment," he said.

However, Stamford Bridge was and, six years on, still is his spiritual home. The lads who roll in from the King's Road hostelries at 2.50pm on a Saturday, to sit where The Shed once stood, can comfortably identify with their 29-year-old idol; his Cockney patter, his liking for pie and mash, Mr Bean and Dirty Den, and his contractual commitment to Chelsea until at least 1998.

They even forgave the V-sign he offered them during the heat of battle four years ago. "I was wrong, I shouldn't have done it," he said.

In his favoured Armani suit and sipping lemonade and lime, he mixes equally easily with the smart set at the Bridge. Status has demanded his progression from Volkswagen Golf to Mercedes to Range Rover and the purchase of a luxury home in Buckinghamshire, and with the omnipresent Hall at his shoulder — "We're like brothers, monster brothers" — he is never short of a favour or invitation.

"Dennis is a real terrier, a players' player," Dean Holdsworth, the Wimbledon striker, said. "Whatever happens, he always seems to be enjoying himself. Let's face it, anyone who has been at our club has always got the prankster in him. He's as consistent as anyone and when you want to win so badly, as he does, you sometimes cross the line. But you don't captain the likes of Ruud Gullit and Mark Hughes without having some great qualities." Should Holdsworth receive a playful nip on the ankles this afternoon, he may revise his reference.

Wise's act will never be squeaky clean — he has been booked seven times this season — but he has recovered from a lengthy injury lay-off early last year, which was caused by a torn thigh muscle, and his vibrant form alongside Gullit has captivated many a shrewd judge.

An odd couple, maybe — dreadlocks and crew-cut, little and large, chalk and cheese — but it works, increasingly impressively. "It's the most enjoyable spell of my career," Wise said.

Enough, perhaps, for Venables to embrace again his cheeky chappy, to add to his total of 11 caps, to include him in his squad for the European championship this summer and to tell him to go out there and give 'em hell. "And by the way, Den, I don't want you anywhere near my club. Understand?"

Why Atherton should remember

Simon Wilde's

WORLD CUP EXTRAS

"KNOW your enemy," is written on the heart of every general leading his men into battle. It should be true, too, of every sports captain. A pity, then, that Michael Atherton should have said this week that he knows little about the Sri Lanka players confronting him today.

Atherton's first taste of international cricket, and one of his earliest forays into captaincy, was on an England youth tour of Sri Lanka in 1987. Atherton's side would have won the final "Test" match in Galle and with it the series had it not been for a swashbuckling innings from a 17-year-old wicketkeeper.

This diminutive dasher was none other than Romesh Kaluwitharana, the man who has set alight the World Cup with his brilliantly destructive opening partnerships with Sanath Jayasuriya. Kaluwitharana, who shares a birthday with that other famous blocker, Ian Botham, struck a century in 134 minutes and 84 of his 119 runs came in boundaries.

Atherton's memory lapse did little for the chances of Captain Grumpy smiling during the match today. Sporting Index, the spread-betting firm, estimated that he would do so only once or twice.

Missing needle

More harsh words about the playing structure of this World Cup. "The qualifying rounds did not have the necessary needle," Ali Bacher, the managing director of the South Africa cricket board, said yesterday. "The top teams knew that they could afford to lose three games and still get into the quarter-finals." Bacher is to propose that fewer teams progress to the knockout stages when the competition is next held, in England in 1999, but said that he also wants more smaller nations taking part when South Africa and Zimbabwe stage the event in 2003.

"I don't think there has been significant growth in the game at the top echelon. World cricket is not growing," said the man who may one day run world cricket. "All that is happening is that the major countries are playing more matches against each other."

Health warning

A leading Islamabad cardiologist advised heart patients not to watch television coverage of Pakistan's match with India today. The match could have fatal consequences for some, Nasir Moin warned. "The anxiety gets the better of human arteries," he said.

India's players know this well, especially when they are at home to their fiercest rivals. Of the last seven matches, dating back to 1987, India have won only one and that was by virtue of losing fewer wickets when the scores finished level. Nor should they have won that one. When Kapil Dev delivered the final ball, three instead of four fielders were inside the "circle", but the Indian umpire failed to call no-ball, denying Pakistan victory.

WORLD CUP DETAILS

All times GMT

GROUP A

	P	W	L	T	Pts	NRR
Sri Lanka	5	5	0	0	10	1.84
Australia	5	3	2	0	6	0.88
India	5	3	2	0	6	0.47
West Indies	5	2	3	0	4	-0.12
Zimbabwe	5	1	4	0	2	-0.95
Kenya	5	1	4	0	2	-1.03

GROUP B

	P	W	L	T	Pts	NRR
South Africa	5	5	0	0	10	2.06
Pakistan	5	4	1	0	8	0.99
New Zealand	5	3	2	0	6	0.54
England	5	2	3	0	4	0.07
UAE	5	1	4	0	2	-1.83
Holland	5	0	5	0	0	-1.95

RESULTS: Group A: West Indies beat Zimbabwe by 6 wkts; Sri Lanka beat Australia, Colombo; India beat Kenya by 7 wkts; Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by 6 wkts; India beat West Indies by 5 wkts; Australia beat Kenya by 97 runs; Sri Lanka beat West Indies, forfeit; Australia beat India by 16 runs; Zimbabwe beat Kenya by 5 wkts; Kenya beat West Indies by 73 runs; Australia beat Zimbabwe by 8 wkts; Sri Lanka beat India by 6 wkts; West Indies beat Australia by 4 wkts; India beat Zimbabwe by 40 runs; Sri Lanka beat Kenya by 144 runs.

Group B: New Zealand beat England by 11 runs; South Africa beat UAE by 169 runs; New Zealand beat Holland by 119 runs; England beat UAE by 8 wkts; South Africa beat New Zealand by 5 wkts; England beat Holland by 49 runs; Pakistan beat UAE by 9 wkts; South Africa beat England by 78 runs; Pakistan beat Holland by 8 wkts; New Zealand beat UAE by 109 runs; South Africa beat Pakistan by 5 wkts; UAE beat Holland by 7 wkts; Pakistan beat England by 7 wkts; South Africa beat Holland by 160 runs; Pakistan beat New Zealand by 46 runs.

QUARTER-FINALS: Today: Sri Lanka v England, Faisalabad (04.00); India v Pakistan, Bangalore (09.00) Mar 11: South Africa v West Indies, Karachi (04.00); Australia v New Zealand, Madras (09.00).

SEMI-FINALS: Mar 13: Faisalabad winner v Bangalore winner, Calcutta (09.00). Mar 14: Karachi winner v Madras winner, Chandigarh (09.00) FINAL: Mar 17: Lahore

Sampras injury puts Henman through

TIM HENMAN was awarded a free passage into the semi-finals of the men's indoor tennis tournament in Rotterdam yesterday after Pete Sampras, his opponent in the quarter-finals, withdrew through injury. Sampras, the world No 1, announced his withdrawal after injuring his ankle during his second-round victory over Jakob Hlasek, of Switzerland.

Sampras slipped and strained tendons during his 7-6, 6-4, 6-4 defeat of Hlasek and put ice on his ankle overnight. However, after consulting an ATP Tour doctor, he limped out of the event and flew home to the United States yesterday. "We have to announce that we have to say farewell to Sampras for this tournament," Wim Buitendijk, the tournament director, said. "We decided to wait overnight, but this morning his foot was swollen and blue."

It was the third disappointment for the organisers after Boris Becker and Michael Stich, of Germany, pulled out because of illness and injury respectively before the start on Monday. Stich has also been ruled out of Germany's Davis Cup fixture in France next month after having a foot operation.

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McGovern inspires as Romford rise again

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
BY WALTER GAMMIE

WHEN Bradley Goodwin took over as chairman of Romford four days before the start of the season, the club had "just one player and a debt of £17". With two months to go, Romford sit on top of the Essex Senior League, six points clear with two matches in hand, have reached the League Cup final, against Burnham Ramblers at Brentwood on April 20, and are still in the Essex Premier Cup and London Floodlit Cup. They have also cleared their debt.

A fifth piece of silverware, the Wembley Challenge Cup, that Romford are pursuing marks the delight that a famous former amateur club are back in business at all. The Challenge Cup, in which Romford hold a 1-0 first-leg lead, is played against Bromley, to whom they lost before 95,000 people in the first FA Amateur Cup final to be held at Wembley in 1949.

Romford, then in the Southern League, folded after selling their ground in 1978 and were revived only four seasons ago. Now they hope to follow other clubs that have been reborn — Oxford City and Bedford Town — into the Icis League and have clinched a three-year deal to use Sungate, the ground of Collier Row, the Icis League second division club, from next season.

Donal McGovern, who took Collier Row to the third division title last season, has masterminded Romford's rise this season. Among a wide-ranging trawl for players, McGovern has unearthed two cast-offs from professional clubs — Dean Calcutt, 19, a prolific goalscorer with Tottenham Hotspur's youth team, and Marvin Rufus, 18, a former Leyton Orient youth player.

"You've got to remember that of 2,400 professionals at Premiership and Endsleigh clubs, 60 per cent have at one time or another been released by clubs as not being good enough," Goodwin said. "That includes David Platt, Les Ferdinand, Ian Wright and Peter Beardsley, so there are some good players about."

Junior ball game sparks pitched battle in courts

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

CONTRARY to popular belief, sport is part of real life and is therefore subject to the processes of the law. On the other hand, as the noted sports writer, Stephen Potter, pointed out: "Gambits are for use and not for overuse." It is legal week in this column and, naturally, the only logical place to start is the United States.

A woman has attempted to sue a nine-year-old baseball player in Connecticut. Johnny Lupoli is the Little League pitcher on whom the majesty of the law descended. In baseball, a wide is graphically called a "wild pitch": Lupoli let rip with a belter of a wild pitch that struck a female spectator in the face. Jolly unpleasant, true, but being American, she was no doubt utterly delighted. Certainly, she took to the law with alacrity. The case was taken up and it rumbled on, as legal matters always will.

"It's been two and half months of hell for the family," Johnny's Mom, Susan, said. "Johnny hasn't wanted to talk about it. It really has been bothering him." Johnny was at school this week when Judge Ronald Fracasse dismissed the case, ruling that "a child cannot be sued as a sole defendant". No doubt it is legally possible for Johnny to sue the woman in question for causing him distress by trying to sue him.

Spoilt for choice

Meanwhile, in Australia, two Australian yachtsmen have taken to the law — because they were not selected for the Olympic Games. John Forbes, who won a bronze medal in the Tornado class four years ago in Barcelona, and his partner, Darren Bundock, have asked a court in New South Wales to rule on the validity of the selection procedures.

Their lawyers argued at a preliminary hearing this week that the selectors had changed their selection criteria, to the benefit of a another yachtie. Perhaps English cricketers gain their places in the team by threatening to sue if not selected. That would certainly explain a good deal.

Street seller

The greatest excitement of watching skiing on the television is seeing if the skiers can get their logos on camera. As soon as the course has been completed, the real race beings: a desperate struggle to get skis off in time to wave them in the public's face, before the camera turns elsewhere. Alberto Tomba has long been recognised as the master technician, but now he has a serious rival. This is the oddly-named American, Picabo Street. She has explained how she has worked — dedicated her life — to the mastering of the Tomba technique: "Working the sponsors . . . even to how he ducks his head so TV catches the logos on his cap." Street is one of only two female athletes — the other is Steffi Graf — to make it to the Forbes Top 40 hit parade of sport's big earners. She does a lot of "work" for Nike, who don't even sell ski equipment, though now they are planning to. "She is as close to a total relationship as we have ever had with an athlete," a spokesman said. Such bliss.

Marooned

How are the indomitable fallen. Cameroon were the heroes and joy-bringers of the 1990 World Cup when the Indomitable Lions, with Roger Milla to the fore, beat the world champions, Argentina, in the opening game. Now they are taking part in Africa's Olympic Games qualifying tournament — and have been stranded in Ghana. The head of the team's delegation has faxed Professor Joseph-Marie Bipoun Woum, Cameroon's youth and sports minister, for money to get home.

Frequent stopovers and complicated itineraries have drained the footballers' purses. In fact, the team only managed to get to Accra, the Ghanaian capital, a few hours before kick-off. Then they found that their new shirts clashed with the opposition's, while their old shirts had the wrong sponsor's logo. Eventually, they played in the old shirts, doctored with sticky tape. Unsurprisingly, they lost 3-0.

Aussie rules

Cricket is a game about culture clashes and mutual incomprehension. *The Australian* newspaper publishes a list of dos and don'ts for Australians setting out across the world to play a season of club or league cricket. These include: "DO take plenty of cash to a game." The writer explains the system of buying a jug if you make a century or take five wickets. "As Australian cricketers are usually very successful in England, I have come to believe that this is the real reason we keep getting invited over."

Also, "DONT sledge the opposition. There is not much on-field aggro in English club cricket. In fact, one common complaint is that it lacks the competitive edge of its Australian counterpart." What a rotten match — no one called me a boot-faced colonial boor even once.

هكذا من الأصل

Three enlightened thinkers illuminate week

ROB HUGHES

Weekend View

I have been having difficulty deciding my football personality of the week. There is a short-list of three: Edgar Davids, the dynamic force of another enthralling Ajax performance in Europe; there is his boss, who had some penetrating things to say about what people are doing to *the world's best competition*; and there is Cheryl Gillan, the Education and Employment Minister.

Gillan managed to pull the bickering English football fraternity together and extend the work permits of Marc Hottiger and Ilie Dumitrescu. Her statement was enlightening: "We have recognised that it is important to allow British clubs to benefit from the contribution which top class [foreign] internationals can make, while still ensuring that *opportunities for young players* from this country to break into top flight football are not stifled."

Make her Minister for Sport. It is high time we had such clarity of thought rather than the mumbled and ineffective apologies from Iain Sproat.

After Davids had played Borussia Dortmund, the German champions, off their own park on Wednesday, he admitted that AC Milan had been in contact, but that "I am also charmed by Barcelona and Real Madrid". However, he added: "I have said I would decide by March or April whether I wanted to go or stay. That time has not run out yet. There are greater talents in the team than mine. I have to improve, to go further and I am aware that Ajax has been teaching us all very well."

What humility, what an absence of agents or spivs or other men trying to make up the decision of his young lifetime. Truly, Davids reflects the educative policies laid down by Louis van Gaal.

When Uefa, European football's governing body, asked van Gaal, as the coach of the European Cup-holders, to contribute to its latest monthly magazine, it was inviting an exercise in democracy that few administrators would dare. *If it knew the man, then it is to* Uefa's credit that it was prepared to print his critical analysis.

"I regard as negative any situation where the commercial interests interfere with the game itself," he wrote. Imagine that sentence at a time when Europe's big clubs believed they had coerced Uefa into destroying the entire basis of competition by allowing a *second team, qualified or not*, from the leading countries to enter the European Cup. We now know that this will not be in operation next season and van Gaal shares my hope that it never happens.

"The reason behind the *formula is that it gives top* clubs room for a mistake," he continued, "but that is no good argument because it is a commercial argument, not a footballing one."

Three cheers for the Dutchman. His article specified areas of growing concern. What was the good, he asked, of professional footballers warming up and then being asked to leave the field more than ten minutes before kick-off? The reason, of course, was commercial, but van Gaal's concern was that players who cooled down were at serious risk of injury.

Furthermore, he showed pique at the rules restraining substitutes from warming up *in front of advertising* boards. "Are the substitutes' muscles not important?" he asked. And, given his forum, he was also critical of having three European competitions spread over Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. "For Ajax, *the current formula* is very good, because the Champions' League play in the middle of the week, but for others it means recuperation times are different with regard to domestic matches."

Lennart Johannson, the president of Uefa, should ensure that these arguments are thoroughly examined by the medical committee. He is a democrat, his challenge to the president of Fifa, João *Havelange, is based upon that* and the European chief executive has previously shown a kindly eye to the welfare of the performers.

During this same week, we witnessed evidence that Germany, at club level, is *falling behind Holland. Its* football appears to echo England's two decades ago, when physical force and excess running were paramount. It is intriguing that Franz Beckenbauer, now the president of Bayern Munich, has struck a deal with Ajax.

The German club's experts are engaged on a long-term study of Ajax's youth training system, in exchange for which Ajax is monitoring the commercial and administrative structure in Munich. Two *countries with open minds* and realistic attitudes, learning together, instead of presuming that their own methods are impregnable.

Hedblom gains head start in fruitful finale

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN RABAT

PETER HEDBLOM leads the Moroccan Open after a blazing finish that threatened to scorch the rain-dampened Royal Dar Es-Salam course here yesterday. Hedblom had four successive birdies with which to conclude his second round, a five-under-par 67, and he had had three before that. His was the lowest score not only of the second day but of the first as well and he has opened up a lead of four strokes over Phillip Price and *six over Alexander Cejka*.

Hedblom, who has sturdy shoulders, a wide, toothy smile and a shock of blond hair, resembles many of the 16 other Swedes competing here. Appearances can mislead, however, if they suggest that Hedblom, 26, is like all his countrymen. He is not. He has never drunk or smoked in his life.

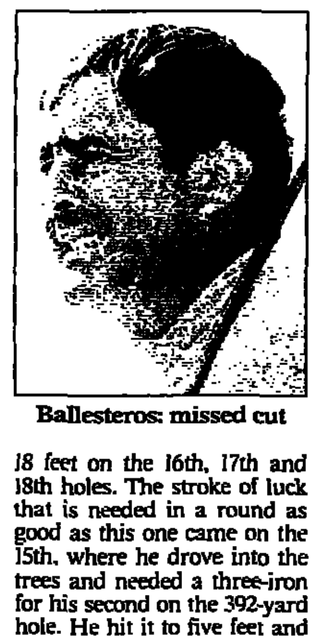
"That is awesome, superb," Anders Forsbrand, the elder statesman among the Swedes on the PGA European Tour, said of his colleague's abstemiousness. "He has as much fun as anyone else. He is a great guy."

He is also a free spirit among golfers who dedicate themselves totally to the game. Others metaphorically wrap themselves in cotton wool, eschewing *skiing* for example. Hedblom says that life is for living. "I like to do dangerous things. You must have fun even if it costs you your golf career. You could step off a kerb and get killed."

It might not seem much fun *to be blindfolded and put in* the ring with a Swedish boxing champion, but that is what happened to Hedblom on his 25th birthday — thanks to his friends. The blindfold off, he lasted three, three-minute rounds before, in defending *himself, he bruised a rib*. This led to a bout of pneumonia and he found himself on the sidelines for some weeks. After his boxing bout, he then walked the mile to his home wearing a fire-fighter's asbestos suit, complete with breathing apparatus on his face.

"The 25th is a big birthday in Sweden," Forsbrand explained. "His friends just wanted to give him a good time on his birthday. Peter is strong and confident. He was good yesterday [Thursday] and today he said it was easy, and when you say it is easy around here then you know you are playing well. I think he can hold on and win."

Hedblom's round also contained two bogeys, both with three putts. He more than made amends for these lapses by sinking putts of 16, 18 and 18 feet on the 16th, 17th and 18th holes. The stroke of luck that is needed in a round as good as this one came on the 15th, where he drove into the trees and needed a three-iron for his second on the 392-yard hole. He hit it to five feet and sank *that one, too*.



Ballesteros: missed cut

There will not be any competition for Hedblom from Severiano Ballesteros, whose downward spiral continued as he went round in 79 and, 22 strokes behind Hedblom, missed the halfway cut by *miles. Ballesteros went out in* seven over par and came back in a level-par 36. "I have no confidence," Ballesteros said. "Always I hit the ball on the heel or the toe."

Fowler falls victim to his country's age concern

The precocious Liverpool forward tells

David Maddock he is ready for England

Why is it that English football is so suspicious of young talent? In Holland, they have Kluivert; in Spain, it is Raúl; in Portugal, Figo. Brazil have Juninho and countless others. In fact, everywhere you look in the world of international football, inexperienced players *of immense talent are allowed* to display the refreshing enterprise of their youth.

Not in England. Here, we are cautious, reluctant, repressive — frightened even — of youth. In England, we have Robbie Fowler, a *blissfully natural goalscorer, the closest* thing you can get to a goalscoring machine, and yet, even after two full seasons of remarkable feats — 78 goals in 129 games — he is still to make even an England squad, let alone an appearance. Would it be wrong to suggest it is because he is only 20 years old?

FA CUP

Even Fowler is perplexed. He received a late call into a recent get-together with Terry Venables, the England coach, almost as an after-thought. Apart from that, nothing. No promise, no encouragement, no reward for his talent. When pressed on why he has been ignored so far, a fire flashes briefly behind Fowler's dark, narrow eyes.

"This age thing keeps cropping up, people keep saying I'm too young or that I've got time on my side," he said. "You know the sort of thing: 'If I don't make it this time, there's always the next.' But to me, it's not like that. I'm not *saying I should be in there*, but I am saying that age shouldn't have anything to do with it. Look at Patrick Kluivert. I played against him for England Youth and now he's a regular for the full Holland side — and he's not done so *badly, has he?*"

His answer is framed as a question, but in reference to himself, not Kluivert. We know exactly what the young Dutch forward has done; the inference is that Fowler could do the same, given the *opportunity. And who would doubt* even such a dramatic claim? Here is a player who will score goals at any level. They know that at Liverpool. It is why Ian Rush will be pensioned off at the end of the season.

Fowler has learnt from Rush, copied him and finally replaced him. Rush leaves with genuine admiration for the young man. "I honestly think I will be leaving Liverpool in safe hands. Robbie will probably eclipse everything I have achieved at the club," he said.

So why has he not announced himself on the wider stage that surely demands his presence? The answer probably lies somewhere between a traditional English mistrust of youth and a certain immaturity in the young man. It is hardly surprising, given a rise to fame that makes meteoric look methodic. Barely three years ago, Fowler was on schoolboy terms at Anfield. Then the Graeme Souness revolution swept away the old guard and he was in the team, a wide-eyed 18-year-old.

A goal on his debut and five against Fulham in only his fourth start offered a fanfare to an uncommon talent, but there were problems. Fowler is from that peculiar Scouse stock of cheeky, streetwise urchins. Thrown in at the deep end, he did not really have sufficient grounding to cope. "I have bought a new house and moved my mum in with me. She does the washing, ironing and cooking. I haven't really got a clue about anything but football and scoring goals," he said, almost cheerfully. "I wasn't totally stupid at school, but near enough."

When Roy Evans took over as manager at Anfield, he wanted to avoid another Gascoigne-style problem of too much, too young. He dropped Fowler, who was forever pictured in style magazines with tongue protruding, gushing about the merits of drinking with his mates. The hope was that he would realise football is not all lads and lager.

The penny finally appeared *to drop* early this season. Fowler has had to do most of his growing up in public and it has been painful. Literally so when he experienced the ire of *Neil Ruddock, his Liverpool* team-mate, who cuffed him for a prank too far. Since then, Fowler has shown a new maturity.

Fowler visits Elland Road on Sunday for an FA Cup quarter-final tie with Leeds United knowing that even Venables must begin to take notice if he maintains his current, prolific form. An England future is not daunting. "In the past, I've always said I wasn't ready, because that's what you do, but now I really do think I'm ready. I want a cap," he said. "I've played against the best defenders and *have performed well enough*. My aim is to continue that, take my chances in big games like this cup match and earn a cap by right, no matter what age I am."

STEWART KENDALL

Fowler has matured into a more responsible player at Liverpool this season

Fulham and Gillingham guilty of misconduct

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

FULHAM and Gillingham were yesterday found guilty of misconduct by the Football Association for their parts in the Endsleigh Insurance *League third division match* at Priestfield last November. Conflict between the rival players left one with a broken leg and produced ten bookings and two sendings-off, one mistakenly. The clubs were cleared of a charge of *"failing to control their players"*.

An FA commission heard evidence from Mark O'Connor, still on crutches more than three months after the game, but deferred sentence until next week. Mick Bailey, *the referee, and* Lee Cable, one of the linesmen, talked the commission through video replays of the tackle by Mark Thomas that left O'Connor with a double fracture of a leg and sparked "a mass confrontation".

When that subsided, Bailey mistakenly sent off Martin Gray, on loan to Fulham, as well as Nick Cusack, as the game degenerated. The last ten minutes, Bailey said, were "the most disgusting exhibition by professional footballers that I have witnessed".

Jimmy Hill, the Fulham chairman, described the events of November 25 as "an unhappy afternoon". He said that Fulham had apologised to Gillingham and that Thomas had been fined two weeks' wages. The player had also been warned that he would be dismissed if he were involved in similar scenes again.

Graeme Le Saux, the England full back, may yet make *it to the European championship finals*. The Blackburn Rovers player is recovering well after breaking his leg during an FA Carling Premiership match against Middlesbrough three months ago.

Chris Sutton, the Blackburn striker, is also well down the road to recovery after being out since November *with ankle problems* and is back in full training.

Wembley and Doncaster Belles meet in the Women's League Cup final at Barnet tomorrow (2.30pm).

Langer pursued by old putting demons

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN CORAL SPRINGS, FLORIDA

THE old demons returned to haunt Bernhard Langer as he missed the cut at the Honda Classic at Eagle Trace here yesterday. On a grey, windy, overcast day, the indomitable German suffered agonies on the greens and slumped to a 79, seven over par and a total of 152.

Peter Coleman, Langer's long-time caddie, confirmed there was a long putter already on order and said: "He's got to do something. He can't compete like this. He can't yip with the grip he's got, but he's not putting a proper stroke on it."

It was painful to watch. On his back nine, he three-putted four times in the first six holes, missing from two feet, twice. That nine read: bogey, double bogey, bogey, bogey, par, double bogey, birdie, birdie, par: 41. "I have no rhythm on my putting, no feel," Langer said. "I can't see the line and I can't feel the line. If the ball is on line, it's the wrong pace. Also on the first six or seven holes, I missed five greens and didn't get up and down, which is usually my strength."

Langer, who has already overcome the yips three times in his career, has not missed a cut in Europe since the Italian Open of 1991, but he has now missed out in consecutive events in Florida. After last week's Doral Ryder Open, he sought out Dave Pelz, a renowned short game specialist, to work specifically on his putting and this weekend he will have more time to spare to try and repair the damage.

Meanwhile, at the business end of the leaderboard, Michael Bradley had put in another solid challenge with a round of 68. *His total of 137, seven under par, left him one* shot ahead of Nick Price, who added a round of 72 to his opening 66. Tim Herron, the first-round leader, who equalled the course record with a 62, had yet to venture out.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND'S LEADING MATCHES

FA Cup Fifth-round replay

Today

Tottenham v Nottm For

No let-up for Forest after their bold but unsuccessful trip to Germany in midweek. Straight back into the FA Cup fire, on the White Hart Lane cabbage patch, with Stone and Woan still nursing knocked knees from Munich. Could go all the way, with extra time and penalties — a somewhat bizarre sight on a Saturday.

Fifth round: Nottingham Forest 2 (Woan 2) Tottenham 2 (Armstrong 2). FA Cup record: 2-1 (1966-67) 2-1 (1970-71); 1-1, 0-1 (1974-75); 2-1 (1990-91); 2-2 (1995-96). Leading scorers (all competitions): Sheringham 21 (Tottenham), Roy, Woan 8 (Nottm For)

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I Walker, D Austin, J Edinburgh, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, C Wilson, S Campbell, R Fox, A Sinton, S Slade, E Sheringham, C Armstrong, S Nethercott, J Dozzell, R Rosenthal

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M Crossley, D Lyttle, D Phillips, S Pearce, S Chettle, A I Haaland, S Gemmill, I Woan, C Bart-Williams, S Stone, B Roy, K Campbell, J Lee, A Fettis, K Black, S Howe, P McGregor, C Armstrong

Sixth round

Today

Chelsea v Wimbledon

Stamford Bridge has been invaded by foxes, which apparently dig up the pitch during their nocturnal wanderings. Chelsea supporters could also witness the wilder side of life this afternoon, with Joe Kinnear and his gladiators popping over from Selhurst Park. Sure to be better than last week's tepid league encounter.

FA Cup record: No previous meetings. Leading scorers (all competitions): Spencer 9 (Chelsea), Holdsworth 13 (Wimbledon)

CHELSEA (from): K Hitchcock, T Phelan, D Petrescu, S Clarke, D Lee, M Duberry, T Phelan, E Johnsen, R Gullit, D Wise, J Spencer, M Hughes, G Peacock, P Furlong, N Spackman, D Kharine, M Izzet

WIMBLEDON (from): N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, C Perry, A Reeves, D Blackwell, A Pearce, A Thorn, O Leonhardsen, R Earle, M Gayle, J Goodman, D Holdsworth, V Jones, J Euell, M Harford, E Ekoku, A Clarke

Tomorrow

Leeds v Liverpool

Liverpool's credibility factor has never been higher; shame that Babb and McAteer should plumb the depths recently by appearing on *Pyjama Party* — one of those banal, late-night girlie shows. Football-wise, Leeds are unlikely to match them, unless Fowler and Collymore also turn up in their jim-jams.

Last meeting: Leeds 2 (Clarke 2) Liverpool 0 (4th rnd replay, 1971-72). FA Cup record: 0-3 (1924-25); 1-2 (1964-65); 0-0, 2-0 (1971-72). Leading scorers (all competitions): Yeboah 19 (Leeds); Fowler 29 (Liverpool)

LEEDS UNITED (from): J Lukic, N Worthington, G Kelly, A Dorigo, D Wetherall, P Beesley, J Pemberton, L Radebe, C Palmer, G McAllister, M Ford, A Gray, A Yeboah, T Brolin, P Masinga, R Bowman, M Tinkler, M Beeney

LIVERPOOL (from): D James, R Jones, J McAteer, M Wright, J Redknapp, P Babb, N Ruddock, S Harkness, S Collymore, I Rush, J Barnes, J Scales, M Thomas, S McManaman, R Fowler, A Warner

Monday

Man Utd v S'ton

Southampton shouldn't have a prayer but just look at their last Cup visit to Old Trafford. Pigs might fly once, but twice? Venison is off, temporarily suspended from the menu, so Hall is given the captain's armband. Le Tissier, former Dell leader, is ignored again, now by his club manager. Someone somewhere is trying to tell him something.

Last meeting: Manchester Utd 2 (Kanchelskis, McClair) Southampton 2 (Gray, Shearer) (4th rnd replay, 1991-92 aet; Southampton won 4-2 on pens). FA *Cup record*: 1-1, 3-1 (1896-97); 1-0 (1962-63); 3-2 (1963-64); 1-1, 4-1 (1971-72), 0-1 (1975-76); 2-2, 2-1 (1976-77); 0-0, 2-2 (1991-92). Leading scorers (all competitions): Scholes 13 (Man Utd); Shipperley 11 (Southampton)

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, D Irwin, P Parker, P Neville, G Neville, R Giggs, R Keane, N Butt, D Beckham, L Sharpe, E Cantona, A Cole, P Scholes, B McClair, A Colon

SOUTHAMPTON (from): D Beasant, J Dodd, S Charlton, F Benali, R Hall, K Monkou, J Magilton, M Le Tissier, N Shipperley, G Watson, M Walters, M Oakley, B Grobbelaar

Premiership

Today

Aston Villa v QPR

Milosevic goals shock reverberated around Villa Park in midweek, the shot-shy Serb being helped by crass defending from Sheffield Wednesday. No change at Loftus Road though, with Rangers handing victory to Leeds. Ray Wilkins faces a titanic challenge and looks like sinking too. Icebergs ahoy!

Last season: Aston Villa 2 (Fashanu, Ehiogu) QPR (Yates). 10-year record: 1-2, 0-1, —, 2-1, 1-3, 2-2, 0-1, 2-0, 4-1, 2-1. Leading scorers: Yorke 13 (Aston Villa), Dichio 8 (QPR).

ASTON VILLA (from): M Bosnich, U Ehiogu, P McGrath, R Scimeca, G Charles, G Southgate, A Townsend, A Wright, J Joachim, S Milosevic, D Yorke, M Draper, G Farrelly, L Hendrie, F Carr, M Oakes

QPR (from): J Sommer, D Bardsley, B Allen, S Barker, M Brazier, R Brevett, T Challis, D Dichio, K Gallen, G Goodridge, I Holloway, A McDonald, C Plummer, N Quashie, K Ready, A Roberts, T Sinclair, R Wilkins, S Yates

Everton v Coventry

As Everton edge nearer to Europe, Coventry continue to flirt with the devil. Big Ron's rebuilding process, costing £12 million over the past year, could prove one of the *most* expensive flops in Premiership history. Richardson, Coventry's midfield grafter, misses a return to Goodison because of suspension.

Last season: Everton 0 Coventry 2 (Dublin, Wegerle). 10-year record: 1-1, 3-1, 1-2, 3-1, 2-0, 1-0, 3-0, 1-1, 0-0, 0-2. Leading scorers: Stuart 8 (Everton); Dublin 13 (Coventry)

EVERTON (from): N Southall, *M Hottiger*, C Short, R Unsworth, A Hinchcliffe, A Kanchelskis, J Ebbrell, J Parkinson, B Horne, A Limpar, D Ferguson, D Amokachi, G Stuart, J O'Connor, J Kearton

COVENTRY CITY (from): S Ogrizovic, B Borrows, L Daish, R Shaw, D Burrows, J Salako, P Williams, E Jess, P Ndlovu, D Dublin, N Whelan, P Telfer, M Hall, A Pickering, N Lamptey, J Filan

W Ham v Middlesbro

With Dumitrescu now on board, Harry Redknapp has so many players he doesn't know what to do with them all — hence his 22-strong squad. At least West Ham supporters can have great fun playing Spot the Englishman. Bryan Robson is able to show off Branco and Juninho, his Brazilian blend, for the first time.

Last season: No fixture. 10-year record: —, —, —, 1-2, 2-0, 0-0, —, —, —, —. Leading scorers: Cottee 8 (West Ham); Barmby 7 (Middlesbrough)

WEST HAM UNITED (from): L Miklosko, S Potts, J Dicks, S Bilic, M Rieper, M Hughes, I Bishop, K Rowland, D Williamson, I Dowie, A Cottee, J Harkes, Dani, L Sealey, R Slater, A Whitbread, D Gordon, A Martin, T Breacker, J Moncur, F Lampard, P Shilton

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): G Walsh, N Cox, D Whyte, N Pearson, C Fleming, C Morris, G Kavanagh, R Mustoe, M Barron, C Hignett, N Barmby, J A Fjortoft, Juninho, A Moore, J Moreno, Branco

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

European indoor championships in Stockholm

MEN: 60m: First round: Qualifiers for semi-finals include J John (GB) and K Williams (GB) 6.72sec. Non-qualifiers include J Gardener (GB) 6.79. 400m: First round: Qualifiers for semi-finals include K Ulyatt (GB) 47.41, T McGurk (Ire) 47.73; *D Ladejo* (GB) 47.84. Pole vault: Qualifiers for final include N Buckfield (GB) 5.55m

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Charlotte 119 Dallas 105, Atlanta 83 Cleveland 72, Chicago 102 Detroit 81; Denver 103 Phoenix 92, Golden State 95 Houston 86; Los Angeles Lakers 102 Sacramento 88

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-finals, first leg: Ulkerspor (Tur) 77 Barcelona 105; Panathinaikos 70 Benetton Treviso 67, Olympiakos 68 Real Madrid 48.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby 72 London Towers 78

BILLIARDS

WIGAN: Strachan United Kingdom championship: Final: M Russell (Eng) bt D *Causier* (Eng) 1,690-1,277.

BOWLS

AUCHINLECK: Home international championship: Scotland bt Ireland 126-104 (Scotland skips first): R McCulloch bt S Wylie 25-14; J Muir bt R McCune 28-15; R Provan bt S Adamson 22-17; W Wood lost to R Battersby 16-23, G Robertson lost to G McCloy 15-17; A Marshall bt S Moran 20-18. Wales bt Ireland 132-102 (*Wales skips first*): J Greenslade bt G McCloy 24-21; N Leigh bt S Moran 24-10; D Wilkins lost to S Wylie 15-19; R Weale bt R McCune 23-17; J Price bt S Adamson 27-17, S Rees bt R Battersby 19-18.

EASTLEIGH: All-England women's indoor championships: Singles: Semi-finals: S Hazell (Mote Park) bt D Mitchell (Croydon) 21-13, J Baker (South Forest) bt B Brown (Colchester) 21-14. Final: Hazell bt Mitchell *21-8. Unbadged pairs: Semi-finals: March* bt Diss 28-8; Gedling bt City of Birmingham 26-9.

REAL TENNIS

NEW YORK: United States amateur championship: Final: N Pendrigh (GB) bt T Chisholm (US) 6-0, 6-5, 4-6, 4-6, 6-4

BOXING

OXFORD: University match: Oxford bt Cambridge 6-3 (Oxford names first): Featherweight: C Hampson (St Anne's) bt R Platt (Peterhouse) rsc 2nd rnd. Light: K Ayoubi (Pembroke) bt D Freeland (Pembroke) rsc 2nd rnd. Light-welter: A Mehta (Oriel) bt J Cartwright (Wolfson) pts. Welter: A James (Wadham) bt M Raza (Wolfson) pts. Light-middle: M Pokrass (Hertford) lost to N Lois (Jesus) pts. Middle: S Munif (Lincoln) bt T Lucas (Sidney Sussex) pts; J Stein (St Hugh's) lost to N Johnson (Fitzwilliam) pts. Light-heavy: A Stewart (Brasenose) lost to D Vajzovic (Churchill) pts. Heavy: M Orsler (Christ Church) bt J Cocks (Magdalene) pts

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (first day of four): Sydney: New South Wales 93-2 v Victoria. Perth: Western Australia 224 (T Moody 90); Tasmania 75-2 (M DiVenuto 51 not out).

CYCLING

SPAIN: Tour of Murcia: Third stage (Murcia to Caravaca de la Cruz, 157.3 kilometres): 1, S O'Grady (Aus) 4hr 12min 29sec; 2, J Telen (Holl); 3, M Manzoni (It); 4, M Aers (Bel); 5, A Saitov (Russ); 6, K Ozers (Lat); 7, S de Jognh (Holl); 8, H van Dyck (Holl); 9, O Kozlitin (Kaz); 10, D Nazon (Fr) all same time. Overall positions: 1, R Massi (It) 13:08:51; 2, M Mauri (Sp) at 3sec; 3, W Belli (It) at 5; 4, N Stephens (Aus) at 10.

MALAYSIA: Tour of Langkawi: Eighth stage: Phase one (Kuantan to Paka, 110 kilometres): 1, R McAuley (Ire) 2hr 27min 35sec; 2, P Wedge (Can) same time. 3, S Tellman (US) at 7sec, 4, R Hayles (GB) at 51. Phase two (Paka to Pantai Batu Buruk, 110 kilometres): 1, J Sweet (Aus) 2hr 11min 56sec; 2, R Reid (NZ); 3, G Mitchell (NZ); 7, J Tanner (GB) all same time. Overall positions: 1, D McDonald (Aus) 28:52:18; 2, C Newton (GB) at 9sec; 3, B Dennis (Aus) at 12.

LACROSSE

MILTON KEYNES: National schoolgirls tournament: Boyd Cup (seniors): Semi-finals: Haberdashers' Aske's 3 St Paul's 1; St Bartholomew's, Newbury 4, St Albans HS 0. Final: Haberdashers' 5, St Bartholomew's 0. Westcott-Jones Cup (juniors): Semi-finals: Wycombe Abbey 2, Lady Eleanor Holles 1; Berkhamsted 3, Norwich HS 2. Final: Wycombe Abbey 3, Berkhamsted 0.

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg: Dynamo Moscow 0 Rapid Vienna 1; Parma 1 Paris Saint-Germain 0. Deportivo 1, Real Zaragoza 0; Borussia Mönchengladbach 2 Feyenoord 2.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Fifth round: St Johnstone 1 Heart of Midlothian 2.

UNIBOND LEAGUE CUP: Fourth round: Hyde United 5 Lancaster City 1.

GOLF

RABAT: Moroccan Open: Leaders after two rounds (GB and Ire unless stated): 135: P Hedblom (Swe) 68, 67. 139: P Price 71, 68. 141: A Cejka (Ger) 70, 71. 142: S Luna (Sp) 73, 69. 143: R Goosen (SA), 71, 72; P Mitchell 71, 72; R Russell 69, 74; J McHenry 70, 73; M Besanceney (Fr) 72, 71, A Johnstone (Zim) 70, 73; T Planchin (Fr) 74, 69; P Harrington 72, 71; M Tunnicliff 71, 72; W Westner (SA) 71, 72

CORAL SPRINGS, FLORIDA: Honda Classic: Early leaders after two rounds (US unless stated): 137: M Bradley 69, 68. 138: N Price (Zim) 66, 72. 139: K Fergus 69, 70; M Brisky 68, 71, L Rinker 64, 75. 140: P Stewart 70, 70. 141: J Adams 73, 68, G Sauers 70, 71; J Morse 71, 70, S Verplank *65, 76; G Norman (Aus) 70, 71. Other* score: 152: B Langer (Ger) 73, 79. British first round scores: 70: A Lyle, D Kirkpatrick. 75: J Sandelin. 77: N Faldo.

SWIMMING

INDIANAPOLIS: United States Olympic trials (first two in each event qualify for Atlanta): Men: 100m freestyle: 1, G Hall Jr 49.49sec; equal 2, J Olsen and J Davis 49.84. 200m butterfly: 1, M Stewart 1min 58.96sec, 2, R Carey 1:58.97; 3, T Malchow 1:59.11. 400m individual medley: 1, T Dolan 4:12.72; 2, E Namesnik 4:17.19, 3, I Mull 4:22.16. Women: 200m freestyle: 1, C Teuscher 1:59.50; 2, T Jackson 2:00.62; 3, L Jacob 2:00.85. 400m freestyle: 1, J Evans 4:11.77; 2, C Teuscher 4:12.11, 3, Jackson 4:12.26. 100m backstroke: 1, W Hedgepeth 1:01.51; 2, B Botsford 1:02.53; 3, C Fox 1:02.60. 100m breaststroke: 1, A Beard 1:08.36; 2, K Quance 1:09.72; 3, K Kowal 1:09.89.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 4 New York Islanders 3, Pittsburgh 5 Ottawa 1; Tampa Bay 5 New York Rangers 2, Calgary 4 St Louis 2, Winnipeg 5 Florida 3

TENNIS

MEXICO CITY: Men's tournament: Second round: J Novak (Cz) bt F Fontang (Fr) 7-6, 6-3; J Sanchez (Sp) bt F Vitoux (Fr) 6-3, 6-3; T Muster (Austria) bt L Lobo (Arg) 7-6, 6-2; F Meligeni (Br) bt B Shelton (US) 6-2, 6-4; A Hernandez (Mex) bt F Mantilla (Sp) 6-2, 7-5

ROTTERDAM: Men's tournament: Second round: P Sampras (US) bt J Hlasek (Switz) 6-7, 6-4, 6-4; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt J Eltingh (Holl) 6-4, 6-2. Quarter-finals: G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt M Damm (Cz) 7-5, 6-2; T Henman (GB) w o Sampras scr

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona: Men's tournament: Second round: J Gimelstob (US) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 2-6, 7-5, 6-2; W Ferreira (SA) bt B Steven (NZ) 6-4, 6-4; A Berasategui (Sp) bt S Matsuoka (Japan) 6-3, 6-4; R Reneberg (US) w o P McEnroe (US) scr; S Edberg (Swe) bt T Martin (US) 7-5, 6-2; A Costa (Sp) bt J Burillo (Sp) 6-3, 6-3; M Rios (Chile) bt D Nestor (Can) 7-6, 4-6, 7-6; S Stolle (Aus) w o M Larsson (Swe) scr

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THOMAS BRING JENKINS
BACK INTO FRAY

SATURDAY MARCH 9 1996

Sub-continent smoulders with hostility as England are deprived of their leading bowler

World Cup in the line of fire

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
in Bangalore

IN THE frantic streets of this city in southern India, a motorscooter wobbled between the belching buses and angrily tooting taxis yesterday, carrying a symbolic load. Perched precariously on the back, wide-eyed and white-knuckled with concentration, was a man cradling a television set under his arm. For those unable to buy, beg or borrow tickets for the match of their lifetime, a luxury item has suddenly become an essential.

The same streets will be empty this afternoon, save for the few thousand who will camp outside the Chinnaswami stadium, a vigil partly in protest at the impossibility of getting inside but more as an act of faith and commitment.

If the result goes the wrong way, late this evening, those streets will be best avoided, for there will be tears among the sweat: perhaps blood, too.

This, you see, is like no other cricket match. This is India against Pakistan: a drama, a rarity and, in present circumstances, an incongruity. Both sides of the border, newspaper front pages stir the rhetoric of what is effectively a war. Troops are launching rockets at each other. Nuclear threats are a daily occurrence. Down south, here in Bangalore, the sparring countries prepare to play a cricket match.

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World Cup diary 46

It is seven years since the teams met on anything but neutral territory. Between times, they have played in Sharjah and even on English football and athletics grounds, though crowd disorder in England has rarely allowed them to finish. No game between them, however, has ever meant more than this — not just because it is the quarter-final of the World Cup, not just because the global audience will boggle the mind, but because their countries are at each others' throats.

Many believed cricket could not rise above this conflict and some, the manipulators and malcontents, openly hoped it would not. Bal Thackeray, the extremist leader of the ruling Shiv Sena party in Bombay, has decreed that the Pakistan team will never set foot in "his city" and his supporters have claimed they will infiltrate today's game. Against such bitterness, such odds, the need for the day to pass off in peace transcends all else.

Cricketers cannot be immune to such responsibility and the strain was evident yesterday on the faces of the India team. They filed into a reception a little later and a lot less smartly than Pakistan. They also, conspicuously, smiled less.

The home team must carry the local expectation of victory and the global demand for harmony. These burdens were not sitting comfortably on their shoulders.

Across the room, Wasim Akram, the Pakistan captain, could scarcely have looked more relaxed, and the distinction was not lost on him. "They were full of tension when we saw them yesterday," he said, gesturing at the Indians. "Our boys were laughing and joking.

"If we were playing in Pakistan, the roles would be reversed and the pressure would be on us. That is why it is preferable for us to play the game here." Wasim broke off to hail his counterpart, Mohammed Azharuddin, who looked distracted. As the two shook hands, the space around them lit up with dozens of camera flashes. The greeting was genuinely friendly.

"We get along fine with their players," Wasim said. "It is politics that builds this game into something more than cricket." Equally, it is politics that shames it. The Bangalore ground can hold more than 50,000, yet only 11,000 tickets were sold to the public.

The local authorities pleaded an "unprecedented demand" from VIPs, yet the truth is that too many tickets have gone to the influential and undeserving and far too many to the unscrupulous. I had not even emerged from the arrivals hall at the airport before fielding the first offer of black-market tickets.

Resentment has understandably been aroused. Refuel it today with a Pakistan victory and even the startling security measures, which include 3,000 civil policemen, three rapid action forces and a bomb squad, may be rendered impotent. Yet a Pakistan victory is a probability. The longer the tournament has run, the more formidable the holders have become; India's graph has been entirely different — a rousing start faltering into doubts and defeats.

The country speaks of only one player, for it is tacitly acknowledged that only he can bring the glory it craves. Sachin Tendulkar, a remarkably self-possessed young man, carries off the compliment without apparent vanity or stress, but today, when he faces Wasim and Waqar Younis, the best new-ball pair in the world, who will be intent only on his dismissal, it will be his mental poise, as much as his wondrous talent, that will be examined as never before. So too will the mettle of the umpires, one of whom will be David Shepherd, of England. Raman Subba Row, a former chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board, will be the match referee.

Pakistan, meanwhile, wait upon their captain. Yesterday, Wasim was still suffering from a strained left side. "It hurts even to sneeze," he said, ominously. Yet, while patently unfit, Wasim speaks with defiance. "I will play if it is only 50 per cent right," he said. Therein lies the measure of this colossal occasion.

Security guards patrol the Chinnaswami stadium as the Pakistan players prepare for their match against India. Photograph: John Moore

Withdrawal of Cork adds to Atherton's woe

From Michael Henderson in Faisalabad

DOMINIC CORK, the only bowler who takes his place in the England team by right, was yesterday ruled out of the World Cup quarter-final against Sri Lanka, which was due to have got under way in Faisalabad early today.

Cork, who has a history of knee trouble, had been struggling for a week with his latest injury and withdrew yesterday. His place was expected to go to his Derbyshire team-mate, Phillip DeFreitas.

The absence of Cork deprived Michael Atherton, the England captain, of the one bowler who has commanded the respect of opponents in the past year for a match against arguably the most powerful batting side in the competition.

Sri Lanka have scored more than six runs an over in this World Cup and recorded the highest score in one-day international cricket this week, 398 for five against Kenya, who had just bowled out West Indies for 93.

"Injuries always seem to come along just when you don't want them," said Cork, who hopes to be fit for the semi-final in Calcutta on Wednesday, should England reach it. "Although it is not too bad, I am struggling to put pressure on the knee and it hurts when I run. It would be wrong to go into such a big game carrying an injury, than break down and let the team down."

Cork injured his right knee in Lahore, before the tournament began, and has never shaken it off. Phillip Bell, the team doctor, said that it was caused by over-use and that the only cure was a lengthy rest. Bell has already prescibed a six-week period "off games" when Cork returns to England.

Atherton took a philosophical view of Cork's withdrawal. "We brought a 14-man squad and expected to use all the players because of injury and illness. Someone else will now come in and it is up to him to put in a good performance, so that we won't miss Dominic."

England's progress in this competition has been halted every turn of the way by injury and disappointment. Craig White went home with a groin strain after failing to complete the first game, against New Zealand, and Neil Fairbrother returned to England this week after tearing a hamstring in the defeat by Pakistan.

England won only two of their five group matches, against Holland and United Arab Emirates, and have generally made a bad impression with their lack of grace.

Despite these setbacks, Atherton continued to bang the drum yesterday. "Sri Lanka are probably the in-form side, along with South Africa, but that just makes it a bigger challenge," Atherton said. "They have a lot of shotmakers and, while their bowling is not as strong, it is stronger than a couple of years ago." And, he might have added, it is no weaker than England's.

DeFreitas, who has featured in two World Cup finals and recently played his hundredth one-day international, may bowl off spin in an attempt to contain the Sri Lankans.

Raymond Illingworth, the team manager, warned that England had to be flexible in the first 15 overs of the innings when a team is permitted only two fielders more than 30 yards from the bat. "We have been working hard on trying to bowl as straight as possible," Illingworth said. "I don't think any team has worked harder in practice, so let's hope it pays dividends."

Defeat would bring Illingworth's dual job, as manager and chairman of selectors, into focus when the Test and County Cricket Board meets later this month.

WILLS
WORLD CUP
1996

Quarter-finals

TODAY: Sri Lanka v England (Faisalabad, 4am); India v Pakistan (Bangalore, 9am).

MONDAY: South Africa v West Indies (Karachi, 4am); Australia v New Zealand (Madras, 9am).

TV TIMES: Today: Live coverage, England v Sri Lanka and India v Pakistan (Sky Sports, from 3.55am). Highlights (BBC1, 11.40pm). Monday: Live coverage, West Indies v South Africa and Australia v New Zealand (Sky Sports, from 3.45am). Highlights (BBC2, 11.15pm)

Lara attempts to defuse controversy

By Simon Wilde

WEST INDIES called a press conference on their arrival in Karachi yesterday to clear up what Wes Hall, their manager, called the "pusillanimous humbug" surrounding remarks attributed to Brian Lara in an Indian magazine earlier this week. Lara apologised for them, but said they were taken out of context and contained no racial connotation.

The *Outlook* magazine quoted Lara as saying that West Indies hated losing to South Africa — whom they meet in a World Cup quarter-final on Monday — because they were a largely white team. Lara said yesterday: "My words were: 'Today's defeat [by Kenya] was not as humiliating as the defeat back in 1992 when we first met South Africa. Why? Because South Africa [were] coming out of the apartheid era and West Indies [were] the best cricket team in the world.'"

He added: "I'm sorry for what has taken place. It hasn't dampened my relationship with South African people. I have spoken to some of the guys I know there and I think they understand my situation."

Lara pointed out that he had played in South Africa on several occasions and conducted coaching clinics there in 1994. "I have no racial preferences in sport or any aspect of life. What has happened has been a big blow to me because of the respect I have for the administrators of cricket in South Africa, for the way they are developing cricket and the whole of the new South Africa. We have a great match on our hands. Let's not try and spoil it."

Bob Woolmer, the South Africa coach, had earlier responded to Lara's comments by saying: "You don't need any greater motivation than that."

Lara: has coached and played in South Africa

Television deal delays climax to title race

By Russell Kempson

FOR the third successive year, the final matches in the FA Carling Premiership have been put back 24 hours to accommodate live television coverage. The fixtures due to be played on Saturday, May 4, will now be played on Sunday, May 5, all with 4pm kick-offs.

Last season, Blackburn Rovers won the title despite losing 2-1 at Liverpool. Manchester United failed to overhaul Blackburn by only drawing 1-1 at West Ham United. The games were shown simultaneously on the BSkyB sports channels.

Rick Parry, chief executive of the FA Premier League, said: "The decision to move all games will enable the Premier League to ensure that no club receives an unfair advantage by playing their final match later than anyone else. Clubs may only apply to have their match moved back to Saturday if the game in question has no bearing on the championship, qualification for the Uefa Cup or relegation."

Newcastle United, Liverpool and Manchester United have effectively turned the Premiership into a three-cornered fight. On May 5, Newcastle, the leaders, are at home to Tottenham Hotspur, Manchester United are away to Middlesbrough and Liverpool visit Manchester City.

Key issues at the other end of the table could be resolved by the meeting of Southampton and Wimbledon at The Dell, Coventry City's home game with Leeds United and Queens Park Rangers's away fixture at Nottingham Forest.

Last season, the Endsleigh Insurance League first division programme was also moved back a day. No similar plans have been announced by the Football League as yet.

No spring in Gardener's step

From David Powell
Athletics Correspondent
in Stockholm

JASON GARDENER probably wishes he had never run the fastest 60 metres by a European this year. As soon as he did it, he was under pressure and, in the Globe Arena yesterday, his world fell apart.

Unreasonably, given that he had no previous experience of a senior international championship, Gardener was built up as the favourite to win the European indoor championships gold medal here, to become the fourth successive Briton to hold the title after Linford Christie, Jason Livingston and Colin Jackson.

Aged 20, and visibly shocked by the experience, Gardener was eliminated in the first round. He false-started and then, anxious not to be disqualified for a second mistake, was over-cautious in his response to the gun. Last away, he pulled up to third place, but it was not enough to take him into the semi-finals.

"All the pressure has been thrown at Gardener," Jason John, his fellow Briton, who reached the second round comfortably, acknowledged. Gardener, whose 6.55sec in the match against Russia six weeks ago held as the fastest time by a European up to these championships, managed only 6.79sec. He did not stop for Gardener's question time, leaving the stadium while reporters waited to interview him.

On the telephone later, he said: "I think I was a little bit unlucky, but rules are rules and you cannot argue with them." He was referring to the Seiko timing equipment, still relatively new to international athletics, but used for the world championships in Gothenburg last year, which is more sensitive to an athlete's movement while in the blocks.

Though there were many complaints among athletes in Gothenburg, any system which improves the detection of illegal movement must be to the sport's advantage. Gardener was given a false start without leaving the blocks, but was clearly rocking in the set position. Ironically, only the day before, he had been making the point that he had never false-started. The Olympic Games in Atlanta this summer, he will be pleased to know, will be using a different timing system.

In other events on the first day of the three-day championships, Britain made encouraging progress. Ashia Hansen underlined her prospects of a medal in the women's triple jump final today by recording the second-longest qualifying distance. Iva Prandzheva, from Bulgaria, the silver medal-winner in Gothenburg, jumped 14.37 metres in qualifying, with Hansen on 14.32 metres. Hansen thus avoided the realisation of her worst fear — failing to qualify for the final. "I do worry about it," she had said on Thursday. She had not progressed beyond the qualifying round in three successive international championships.

Nick Buckfield earned his place in the 12-man pole vault final today with a qualifying clearance of 5.55 metres. Mark Proctor reached the shot final with a personal best 19.12 metres, elevating himself to seventh place in the all-time British rankings.

Du'aine Ladejo, Britain's best hope for a title, won his heat of the 400 metres and Kent Ulyatt, called in as a reserve after Mark Hylton and Guy Bullock withdrew injured, did the same. The semi-finals are today.

The next world championships are in Athens in 1997, but whether they will be seen live on British television remains open to question. Bo Gentzel, of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), said yesterday that the EBU and the International Amateur Athletic Federation were "miles apart" in negotiations.

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PLUS: Martell Grand National lunch, page 6

GARDENING

Nigel Hawkes: the art of coarse mowing

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PLUS: your questions answered, page 4

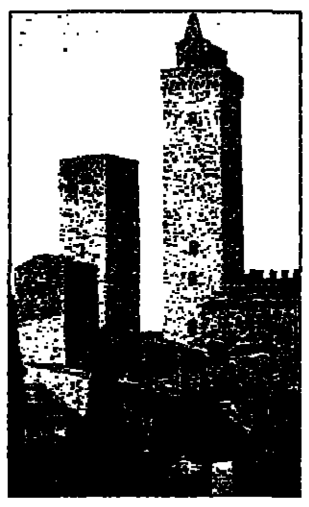
OUTDOORS

Why are the British so bad at recycling?

Page 15

PLUS: Derwent May's feather report, page 15

TRAVEL



Jeremy Paxman walks hidden Tuscany

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PLUS: the court of the Dalai Lama, pages 18-19

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY MARCH 9 1996

MARRIAGE COUNSELLING: HOW IT WORKED FOR US

By Theresa Buck

My experience of facing imminent divorce with three children has shown me how little Tom and I understood about the flash points in our marriage. I was always the breadwinner, insisting that I didn't mind when, actually, I did. I wanted children, Tom wasn't keen, but I had them anyway, the first one "accidentally" hoping it would work out. Tom was frightened by the responsibility.

Tom adored the babies but, as responsibility at home mounted, his appearances there became rarer — it turned into a bed-and-breakfast marriage. As the hideous pressures of my publishing job grew I brought my work manners home, treated everybody with the same bright forcefulness I use in the office, undermining Tom with frosty efficiency. I expected him to be around in the evenings and weekends as my father had been. He wanted to go down to the pub or watch rugby matches or work on his latest painting as he did, increasingly, through the night.

Any expert counsellor could have told us that any one of these events and problems was a potential marriage breaker, and if we'd got to grips earlier we might have made it. As it was I unearthed two — extremely expensive and utterly unsuitable — marriage counsellors on the recommendations of friends and plunged us both into counselling without first finding out whether the counsellors were properly trained, or whether they were supervised by a recognised marriage guidance organisation.

The first, a woman, shouted down the stairs at me as I left after one session: "The fact that you use a name other than your husband's is most significant. Think about it." The second, a grey-haired man with a distinguished reputation, fell asleep, actually more than once. We went to each, at least once a week, for just over a year.

Why did we allow this £80 an hour doze? Lamely, I can only say that when you are as upset and as uncommunicative as we were, common sense can be left behind. Our third counsellor is from Relate. She is sensible, and she gets us to talk to each other and to listen to each other. It sounds simpler than it is.

Our 11-year marriage is likely to end in divorce, but on a more civilised basis than we were crashing towards before. We have failed our children but we will now negotiate as decent a settlement for them as we can manage. At least they will no longer have to witness or endure the violent rows or icy silences between us. Our expectations of each other are irreconcilable. Relate counts this recognition of reality as some kind of success. Now we have intelligent discussions about custody for the three boys, and the finances, where before it was a snarling: "I'll make it difficult for you in court."

However the Princess Royal chooses to knock it, this is the age of counselling. The Princess of Wales, still patron of Relate, not so long ago sat in on counselling sessions. Now, the Princess is having counselling twice a week in the run up to her divorce. The Duchess of York has had counselling; and her friend the actress Pamela Stephenson is training in psychotherapy, often regarded as one of the best backgrounds for a counsellor.

Relate, nationwide gives 450,000 counselling sessions a year, and the London Marriage Guidance Council has around 12,000 clients a year. The numbers grow every year, although people in their forties and older still seem to regard counselling as

Continued on page 3, col 1

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CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

SPELLBOUND To mark the centenary of the first film screening in Britain, the Hayward Gallery has mounted an enjoyable show celebrating the love affair between art and film. Eduardo Paolozzi, the oldest exhibitor, displays a vast treasure-house filled with film-studio props. Paula Rego's vigorous pastels pay alarming homage to Disney's *Fantasia* and *Snow White*. But other artists make films of their own, ranging from the witty animation of Boyd Webb's popcorn story to Damien Hirst's macabre *Hanging Around* and Steve McQueen's suspenseful *Stage*. The film directors' contributions are less impressive: Ridley Scott is oddly subdued and Terry Gilliam lightweight. But Peter Greenaway's noisy, flashing installation is shamelessly theatrical, and Douglas Gordon's 24-hour version of *Psycho* is a slow, mesmerising revelation.
Hayward Gallery, South Bank Centre, London SE1 ♿ (0171-261 0127), until May 6. Paolozzi is also showing at Jason and Rhodes, 4 New Burlington Place, London W1 (0171-434 1768), until March 23.

LISA MILROY AND DILLER + SCOFIDIO A well-balanced double bill at the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham, where Lisa Milroy's travel paintings occupy the upper space with quiet assurance. Showing great technical virtuosity, Milroy takes her own photographs as the starting-point for a remarkably limpid range of views. Her small paintings of Tokyo are a delight, but the American Holiday sequence offers a rich range of snapshot images. Downstairs the New York-based architects Diller + Scofidio have installed *Slow House*, a series of lectern-shaped structures based on an oceanfront house they have designed for a Long Island site. Written observations on each crystal screen fade when lights reveal a photograph, drawing or model behind. A thoughtful work, impeccably well organised.
Ikon Gallery, John Bright Street, Birmingham (0121-643 0708); Milroy until March 23, Diller + Scofidio, last day today.

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

ECO GALA Pinchas Zukerman directs from the violin as the English Chamber Orchestra celebrates its 35th birthday with a Royal Gala in the presence of the Prince of Wales. The orchestra has plenty of reasons to celebrate, too. Although it is *not* at the cutting-edge of British musical life quite as often as it was during its long collaboration with Benjamin Britten and Aldeburgh in the 1960s and early 1970s, it has maintained a remarkably high standard over the years. In this concert Zukerman plays the Beethoven Violin Concerto and directs operatic arias and overtures by Mozart.
Barbican, Silk Street, London SE1 (0171-638 8891), Tues 12, 7.30pm.

Zukerman: directing the English Chamber Orchestra

FIFTIES EPIC The Towards the Millennium festival of 1950s art and music continues with a real rarity, and a vast one at that: Martinů's cantata *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, based on the ancient Babylonian story. The Czech composer has never gained much of a following in Britain — yet his music is attractive, approachable and has a strong mystical atmosphere. In these concerts, by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Sir Simon Rattle, it is coupled with another highly-charged 1950s masterpiece from East Europe: Shostakovich's magnificent Tenth Symphony.
Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121-212 3333), Wed 13, 7.30pm; **Festival Hall**, South Bank, London (0171-960 4242), Thur 14, 7.30pm.

ROCK

David Sinclair

EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL In an ironic twist, Everything But the Girl's final single for the record company that dropped them last year — a Todd Terry remix of *Missing* — has turned into the biggest hit of the duo's 14-year career. Now signed to a different label, they have shifted the emphasis away from the sedate folk-jazz sound of their work in the 1980s, towards a "drum and bass" dancefloor style on their forthcoming album, *Walking Wounded*.
Bristol University ♿ (0117-929 9008), March 13; **De Montfort University**, Leicester ♿ (01162 555576), March 14; **Middlesbrough Town Hall** ♿ (01842 242561), March 15; **Leadmill**, Sheffield ♿ (0114-275 4500), Mar 17; **Northwick Theatre**, Worcester ♿ (01905 755141), March 18. Also **University of East Anglia**, Norwich, March 19; **Pyramids Centre**, Portsmouth, March 21; **Shepherds Bush Empire**, London, March 22.

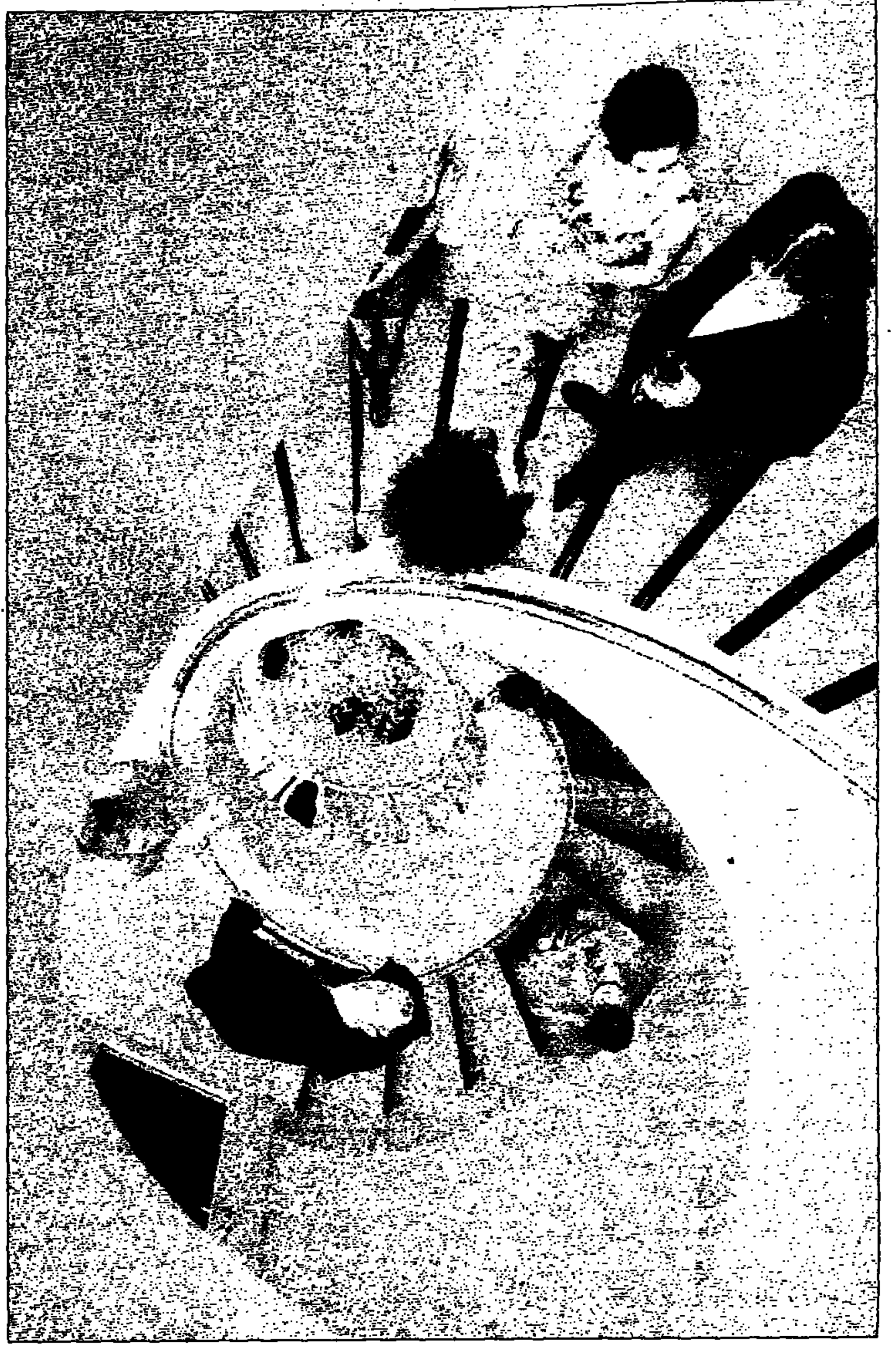
BILLIE RAY MARTIN Formerly the singer with radical cult dance act Electribe 101, Billie Ray Martin has taken a significant step towards mainstream success with her debut solo album, *Deadline For My Memories*. Combining a voice that echoes the sweeping emotional power of Alison Moyet with the coolest dancefloor beats, she is a rapidly emerging talent of considerable poise and promise.
Kings College, London WC2 ♿ (0171-836 7132), Mar 14; **Hippo Club**, Cardiff (01222 341463), Mar 15; **Lakota**, Bristol (0117-942 6208), Mar 16; **University of East Anglia**, Norwich ♿ (01603 358608), Mar 20. Also **Sankey's Soap**, Manchester, Mar 21; **Ministry of Sound**, London, Mar 22; **Roadmender**, Northampton, Mar 26; **Nightingale**, Birmingham, Mar 29; **LA2**, London W1, Apr 3; **Leadmill**, Sheffield, Apr 7; **Jazz Café**, London NW1, May 5.

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

TRISTAN AND ISOLDE As the English National Opera's runaway success draws to the end of its initial run, there is a new Isolde in Mary Lloyd-Davies, who made such a strong impression in last November's Chelsea Opera Group concert performance of *Tannhäuser* on the South Bank — a firm, athletic and highly musical singer whose assault on this Everest of soprano roles is awaited with great interest. Otherwise Mark Elder's intense, searching conducting, David Alden's spare production, George Gray's solid Tristan, and superb supporting performances from Gwynne Howell and Jonathan Summers are constants.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8000), Mon 11, 5pm. ♿

JOHN JEFFORD



A scene from Damien Hirst's macabre *Hanging Around*, at the Spellbound exhibition (see Galleries)

DON PASQUALE For an altogether lighter, neatly planned satyr-play approach to the wretched Eternal Triangle, try Donizetti's merry comedy-with-the-occasional tear — tunes, more tunes and inimitably sparky orchestration. The revival of Patrick Mason's modern-dress production has an inviting cast: vivacious Mary Hegarty as Norina/Isolde, dashing Neill Archer as Ernesto/Tristan, and the immortal Donald Adams as Pasquale/King Mark. Suave Alan Opie completes the cast as Dr Malatesta and the conductor is Michael Lloyd.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8000), Tues 12, Thur 14, 7.30pm. ♿

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

COMPANY A well-merited transfer for Sam Mendes's intimate version of a show that, when staged at Her Majesty's 20-odd years ago, seemed more a garish attack on the pressures of city life than a rumination about the whys and wherefores of wedlock. Though Stephen Sondheim's trademark cynicism is still evident and the wit of his rhymes undimmed, the emotional balance has shifted. The musical has become a sympathetic, inquiring, even tender exploration of the mind of Adrian Lester's bachelor, flummoxed as it is by the confusions and disasters afflicting Sophie Thompson, Sheila Gish and his other married friends.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-369 1730). Evenings: Monday to Saturday, 7.45 pm; matinées: Wed and Sat, 3pm.

TOMMY If you are afraid your ears will get splintered, or your mind shredded, be reassured. Des McAnuff's production of Pete Townsend's tale of the autistic boy turned pop messiah, while not the most musically or intellectually taxing piece ever written, comes across with such skill, drive and visual derring-do that the only risk is indigestion of your over-feasted eyes. And Paul Keating brings force as well as vulnerability to a Tommy who whirls about on a pinball machine that looks like a flying saucer spilling fairy-dust.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (0171-379 5399). Mon to Sat, 8pm; matinées: Wed and Sat, 3pm. ♿

DANCE

John Percival

SOUTH BANK DANCE Audiences will sit on the stage at the Queen Elizabeth Hall tonight and tomorrow for *The Reverse Effect* in which choreographers Wayne MacGregor, Wendy Houston and Lea Anderson set their dancers to work in the hall's seats, aisles, lighting boxes and projection booths. (Two shows nightly, 7.45 and 9.30.) Back to normal seating (Friday 15 and Saturday 16, 7.45pm) for the British premiere of Shobana Jeyasingh's *Lintu Ja Tuuli* (The Bird and the Wind), based on Indian and Finnish folk poets, to music by Eero Hameenniemi.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London (0171-960 4242).

ROYAL BALLET This week's ballet performances at Covent Garden are the *last* there until April: *Giselle* with Sylvie Guillem on Tuesday and Thursday, a mixed bill including Ashton's virtuoso piece *Rhapsody* and MacMillan's dramatic *The Invitation* on Wednesday and Friday. Then a group of 30 dancers goes on tour for two weeks to small, regional theatres with Forsythe's thrillingly athletic *Steptext* and a clutch of new works by mostly young choreographers.
Royal Opera House, London, WC2 ♿ (0171-304 4000), March 12-15, 7.30pm; **Wycombe Swan** ♿ (01494 512000), March 18, 7.30pm; March 19, 2pm and 7.30pm; **Lyceum Theatre**, Sheffield ♿ (0114 726 9922), March 21-23, 7.45pm; March 23, 3pm; **Grand Theatre**, Blackpool (01253 28372), March 25, 7.30pm; March 26, 2pm, 7.30pm; **Theatre Royal**, Bath (01225 448844), March 28-30, 8pm; March 30, 2.30pm.

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

WILLIAM MORRIS REVISITED Usually the last thing that a centenary exhibition would be expected to do is to "question the legacy" but that is precisely the programme this new exhibition, organised by and starting its tour at the Whitworth, lays down in its subtitle. This year is the hundredth anniversary of William Morris's death, and we are due for a number of shows on the subject. This one is admiring but not too reverential. The legacy at issue is the whole Arts and Crafts movement, automatically but not, as here demonstrated correctly, entirely associated with Morris's name. Morris was, for example, much more accepting of industrial process than some of his flower-children successors imagine. One of the key questions is: what exactly does "handmade" mean? Some of the answers, as presented in the work of Morris himself and such moderns as Danny Lane, Janice Tchalenko and Kaffe Fassett, are provocative.
Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester (0161-275 7450), Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2-5pm, until April 7. ♿

ETIENNE DELAUNE Among its many unexpected riches the Ashmolean counts one of the largest collections in existence of French ornament drawings from the 16th century. The majority are attributed to the silversmith Etienne Delaune (1518-1578), active in Paris at the time of Henri II and Catherine de Medici. Delaune designed, on occasion, royal suits of armour and large pieces in gold and silver, but most of the exquisitely finished designs on vellum are for jewels, which played an important part in the politics of the period. Very few of the jewels themselves survive, but we know that some of these designs were made for the royal couple and for Diane de Poitiers, while others can be associated with such temporary denizens of the court as Mary Queen of Scots. There are also designs for jettons, often matched with finished pieces struck at the Paris Mints in the 1550s.
Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford (0865 278010), Tues-Sat, 10am-4pm; Sun 2-4pm, until May 12.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

LA CEREMONIE (15) The veteran French director Claude Chabrol's best film in years: a cool, darkly comic version of Ruth Rendell's novel *A Judgement in Stone*, updated and transferred to a windswept Brittany. Sandrine Bonnaire is the secretive housemaid whose position as the perfect help is undermined when she builds a friendship with the insolent village postmistress (Isabelle Huppert). Chabrol delights in the class distinctions that fuel the drama, though he is careful not to categorise any side as villain or victim, and his even-handed approach makes the violent climax all the more shocking. With Jacqueline Bisset and Jean-Pierre Cassel.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096), **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527), **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470), **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148).

RESTORATION (15) Gaze with awe at Charles II's Court, and the wanton ways of the King's favourite physician, Robert Downey Jr. Early enjoyment of this lavish edition of Rose Tremain's novel drains away when the hero reforms and does good deeds. Director Michael Hoffman and his technical team work stylish wonders on a medium budget. Costumes and sets boggle the eyes: if only we cared more about the human beings. With Sam Neill, Meg Ryan and, briefly, Hugh Grant.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772), **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096); **NFT** (0171-928 3232); **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666), **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098), **West End** (01426 915574); **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332).

JAZZ AND CABARET

Clive Davis

RITA COOLIDGE Back in the 1970s Mrs Kris Kristofferson, as she was then, took an old Jackie Wilson soul hit, *Higher and Higher*, and re-worked it as a funky piece of soft-rock. The daughter of a Baptist minister, she was re-interpreting rhythm and blues for a mainstream audience — and doing so very tastefully — long before the industry moguls had heard of Michael Bolton or Mariah Carey.
Café Royal, Regent St, London W1 (0171-437 9090), Tues 12 to Sat 30 (except Sundays and Mondays).

CHICK COREA/JESSICA WILLIAMS The good news about Chick Corea's appearance this week is that he has left his whiz-bang fusion group at home. The American keyboard virtuoso will be working in an uncompromised acoustic format, leading a quartet including another Miles Davis acolyte, the saxophonist Bob Berg. A subtle colourist, Jessica Williams has worked her way to the front rank of piano players without hype or assistance from the main labels. Dave Brubeck and Humphrey Lyttelton have led the praise. She slips into Britain for a solo tour, reaching the South Bank's Purcell Room at the end of the month.

Acoustic keyboard: Chick Corea fronts a quartet at the Barbican

Corea: **Barbican Centre**, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), Mon 11. ♿
Williams: **Holywell Music Room**, Holywell St, Oxford (information 01993 702748), tomorrow; **Gardner Arts Centre**, Brighton (01273 685861), Tues 12; **Darlington Arts Centre** ♿ (01325 483168), Fri 15; **Caedmon Hall**, Gateshead ♿ (0191-477 3478), Sat 16.

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ **House-full, returns only** ◪ **Some seats available** ☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **1953** Emma Fielding, Jason Isaacs and Adam Kotz play the lead roles in Craig Raine's version of Racine's *Andromache* updated to an imagined Italy ruled by Mussolini's son. An interesting conceit that nearly works. Impressive acting.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. ♿

☐ **THE CHANGING ROOM**: David Storey's fascinating play about a rugby league team preparing for the weekly game. Third in the season of Royal Court Classics.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm. ♿

☐ **CHAPTER TWO** Tom Conti and Sharon Gless play unattached New Yorkers whirling towards each other in Neil Simon's comedy. Not his best.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8.15pm, mats Thurs 3pm, Sat 5pm.

☐ **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED).** New West End appearance of the RSC (Reduced Shakespeare Company) with their popular, potty rough-handling of the Bard. The Complete History of America (abridged) plays Tues.
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1737). Wed-Sat, 8pm, Mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm and Sun, 4pm. ♿

☐ **EAST LYNNE** Mrs Henry Wood's famous tale of the downfall of Lady Isabel Vane, interestingly done, though the modern comments feel unnecessary.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat 2.30pm. ♿

◪ **THE GLASS MENAGERIE** Sam Mendes's radiant production. Zoë Wanamaker and Claire Skinner play mother and daughter. Ben Walden is Tom.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Sat, 3pm.

☐ **HEAVEN BY STORM** The Umbilical Brothers, otherwise the Australian acrobatic comedians Shane Dundas and Dave Collins, bring their ingenious and alluring show to London.
Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 2132). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

☐ **LEE EVANS** The rubber-boned comedian, here for a short season.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5049). Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 6pm and 8.30pm.

☐ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Triumphant return for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal. The star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, Pennie Downie.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. ♿

Kim Wilde, Alistair Robins: *Tommy*, the Shaftesbury

◪ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

☐ **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT** Philip Schofield plays the lad with the pretty jacket in a nine-week revival of the first Lloyd Webber/Rice creation.
Labatt's Apollo, Queen Caroline Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0171-416 6082). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **THE KING OF PRUSSIA** The first of the "Four Corners" plays to be given a week's London run here. Nick Darke's interesting-sounding play about 18th-century Cornish smugglers, presented by the excellent Kneehigh Theatre.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Today, 4pm and 8pm. ♿

◪ **THE MISANTHROPE** Ken Stott and Elizabeth McGovern in an updated version of Molière: too updated for the play's real good but vigorously acted.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. ♿

☐ **OBSERVE THE SONS OF ULSTER MARCHING TOWARDS THE SOMME** Two-week visit of Dublin's Abbey Theatre with their superb production of Frank McGuinness's classic about camaraderie under hellish fire.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mats Mar 14 and Sat, 2pm. Until Mar 16. ♿

☐ **PRESENT LAUGHTER** Peter Bowles plays Coward's exaggerated self-portrait in an only so-so production.
Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (0171-379 3367). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

☐ **SISTERS, BROTHERS.** Stockholm's smash hit of 1994: Stig Larsson's "viciously comic" play about sexual tensions between three sisters and their boyfriends. Part of the Gate Biennale.
Gate, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (0171-229 0706). Mon-Sat, 7pm.

☐ **SKYLIGHT** Outstanding playing by Michael Gambon and Lia Williams in David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat 3pm.

■ **SWEET PANIC**: Stephen Poliakoff's thought-provoking play about the awfulness of working as a child psychologist in an urban nightmare. Harriet Walter and Saskia Reeves both excellent.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. ♿

☐ **A TALENT TO AMUSE** The words and music of Noel Coward, brought to life with skilful, sometimes mischievous charm, by Peter Greenwell, Coward's accompanist for ten years.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

◪ **TOMMY**. See Critics' Choice, above.

☐ **VALLEY SONG** Athol Fugard's first play since the end of apartheid interestingly mourns aspects of the past while welcoming, with degrees of enthusiasm, the future. Fugard himself acts two roles.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Today, 3.30 and 7.30pm. Final performances.

☐ **THE WAY OF THE WORLD** Congreve's most famous comedy of love frustrated and fulfilled. Roger Allam and Fiona Shaw interesting as the lovers. Geraldine McEwan outstanding as a tragic Lady Wishfort.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Today, 2.15 and 7.30pm. Final performances. ♿

LONG RUNNERS

◪ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800). ☐ **Dead Guilty**: Apollo (0171-494 5070). ☐ **Funny Money**: Playhouse (0171-839 4401). ◪ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060). ◪ **Jolson**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317). ◪ **Mack and Mabel**: Piccadilly (0171-369 1734). ◪ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020). ◪ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665). ◪ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055). ☐ **The Women in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238).

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

LA CEREMONIE (15) See Critics' Choice, above.

RESTORATION (15) See Critics' Choice, above.

UNDERGROUND (15) Exhausting comic epic about war in the Balkans from Emir Kusturica. The top prizewinner at Cannes last year.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **MGM Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030)

CURRENT

◆ **BABE** (U) Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** ♿ (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

BED OF ROSES (PG). Willing, whimsical romance set in a fairy-tale New York, with Mary Stuart Masterson and Christian Slater.
Plaza (0171-437 1234)

◆ **CASINO** (18) Scorsese's epic of Las Vegas in the 1970s: glorious background detail, but the human drama flags. With Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone and Joe Pesci.
Empire ♿ (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS (15): Splendidly atmospheric thriller with Denzel Washington as the ordinary Joe in late 1940s Los Angeles stumbling over corpses, police and corruption. From Walter Mosley's novel.
MGM Panton Street (0171-930 0631)

FRENCH TWIST (18): Jovial French farce with a lesbian angle from writer-director Josiane Balasko, who co-stars with Victoria Abril.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **FATHER OF THE BRIDE PART II** (PG). Steve Martin faces the patter of tiny feet. Bland comedy sequel, with Diane Keaton and Kimberly Williams.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **HEAT** (15): LA detective Al Pacino tries to catch Robert De Niro's crooks. Excellent epic crime drama from writer-director, Michael Mann.
MGMs: Fulham Road ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

JOHNNY MNEMONIC (15) The Yakuza want the contents of Keanu Reeves's head. Futuristic folly from cyberpunk author William Gibson.
Warner ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **JUMANJI** (PG): Exhilarating romp about a rainforest board game that comes to life. With Robin Williams.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18) Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Stirling, intimate drama from director Mike Figgis. With Elisabeth Shue.
MGMs: Fulham Road ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

OTHELLO (12) Laurence Fishburne as the jealous Moor, Kenneth Branagh as the scheming Iago. Lively version for general audiences. Director, Oliver Parker.
Odeons: Haymarket (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **LOCH NESS** (PG): Ted Danson looks for Nessie in a dull, harmless adventure. With Joely Richardson.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **A LITTLE PRINCESS** (U). Marvellous rendering of the children's classic, with Liesel Matthews as the boarding school girl plunged from riches to rags.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

Jacqueline Bisset smoulders in Chabrol's La Cérémonie

SABRINA (PG): Businessman Harrison Ford falls for the chauffeur's daughter, Julia Ormond. Sydney Pollack directs.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGM Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **SENSE AND SENSIBILITY** (U) Emma Thompson's radiant adaptation of Jane Austen's early novel, with Thompson and Kate Winslet as sisters with different approaches to romance. Director, Ang Lee.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzons: Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **West End** (0171-369 1722) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** ♿ (0171-435 3366)

◆ **STRANGE DAYS** (18): Uncomfortable apocalyptic drama, with Ralph Fiennes as a trafficker in virtual reality. With Angela Bassett. Director, Kathryn Bigelow.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **TRAINSPOTTING** (18): Abrasive look at junkie life, from Irvine Welsh's novel, made by the *Shallow Grave* team. With Ewan McGregor and Ewen Bremner.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture** (0171-498 3323) **Gate** ♿ (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Rd** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Ct Rd** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker St** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

ULYSSES' GAZE (PG). Portentous epic with striking moments from Greek master Theo Angelopoulos, with Harvey Keitel as a film-maker journeying through the Balkans.
Renoir (0171-837 8402) **Rio** (0171-254 6677)

◆ **WHEN SATURDAY COMES** (15). Can Sean Bean make the grade with Sheffield United? Do we care? With Emily Lloyd. Director, Maria Giese.
Odeon West End (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

WITHNAIL & I (15): Revival of Bruce Robinson's quirky cult comedy, with Richard E. Grant and Paul McGann as would-be actors miserable in the Lake District.
MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279)

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'Britain has twice the divorce rate of the rest of Europe'

Continued from page 1

somehow shameful, whereas the younger generation have a more relaxed view. Take the Packers, a young couple who live in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. Erika Packer told me that the marriage guidance counselling she and her husband, Clive, received from Denise Knowles, who works at the Northamptonshire branch of Relate, helped them to talk to each other with greater clarity and tenderness.

The couple met in the playground beneath the old castle walls of Kimbolton School. After Clive had been away to university he came back for Erika, and she was only 18 when they married on October 3, three and a half years ago. It wasn't long before the rows started, over money. Quite simply, Clive, who is now 27 and a satellite communications engineer, found that the way Erika frittered money clashed with his own desire — probably too strong he now admits, but part of his upbringing — to hang on to what he earns.

Erika remembers: "I was quietly furious the whole time and anything would provoke me, but I wouldn't say anything. Not anything."

Stubborn silence is a deadly weapon, but Clive, equally stubbornly devoted to their marriage, responded by looking up Relate in the telephone book. He rang on a Monday and took his hostile wife along to an interview on Thursday of the same week.

After ten £30 sessions, their mutual relief is tangible. "I don't think marriage problems and counselling should be all secret and taboo as it seems to be for some people," Erika says. "It's not an easy ride. The nice lady won't stick it back together just like that."

Mrs Knowles made them listen properly. "We were full of misunderstanding," Clive says. "We just expected each other to understand half statements. Because you are married you sometimes think your partner should pick things up, and then you resent it when they don't. I worried, but thought she didn't, and now I understand how she was worrying but having different anxieties. The counselling did so much good. I am happy that people should know we are happy now."

Sally Banks is another who has seen the benefit of counselling. She went to the London Marriage Guidance Council when her last marriage was failing. Sally had just set up her Watford-based film company Talking Pictures and wanted to work long hours. Neither she nor her husband had properly sorted out their expectations of marriage; when they would have babies, who would earn more. He thought that bringing home the bacon was his province and that she would slip into motherhood; not what Sally thought.

"We hadn't discussed our expectations before the marriage," she says. "We just sort of talked in euphemisms and, because we were in love, hoped things would work out. But we were going in different directions. I needed to put in long hours with my new company, and babies were way into the future.

"Our divorce was friendly, probably helped by the London Marriage Guidance people. Now I am married to Paul who is an expert on making videos, which is good because it's allied to what I do. We discussed our expectations before we married, like where we were going to live. And babies are on the agenda."

Both Renate Olins, a director of LMG, and Lucy Selleck, a counsellor with Relate, say that the greatest cause of marriage breakdown is lack of communication tied to two different sets of expectations.

In Mrs Selleck's drawing room, with the petit point footstool and dried flowers in the grate, it's hard to imagine a wife telling the 41-year-old counsellor about the time she poured a saucepan of spaghetti bolognaise over her husband's head; or a husband admitting that he needed to wear red high heels during sex with his wife.

"In the first case the wife was just trying to get a reaction out of her too laid back man," Mrs Selleck says urbanely. "He said nothing, just went off and had a shower, so he had to learn to react more emotionally to her. In the red shoes case the wife got used to it. It's surprising how many women who come home and find their husband wearing their clothes learn to get along with it in a friendly way."

Mrs Selleck sees a common cause of problems in the huge social changes over the past few decades. "There's a lack of job security. We saw our parents in pretty set roles. Our own children will be different because they have been brought up differently. But people in their twenties still have an idea from their parents of how it was and expect something from marriage that's gone.

"Many women say they want to work, but secretly expect to be supported. Men still see themselves as the breadwinner but with redundancy and role swaps they feel, well, what am I supposed to be?

"People may not want to be like their parents, but they instinctively seek a similar set-up. Often they have never been listened to properly in childhood and continue this pattern in their marriage, so neither party has a clue what the other needs. A counsellor may be the first person who has ever listened, and the hour we give them may be the first time they have actually had to pay attention for that length of time. They are used to things like addressing remarks and not being answered. Sessions are an absolute revelation."

Most counsellors are women but there are some men. David Eggins, one of the few to work at Relate, at the Northamptonshire branch, says that, for the most part, his gender makes no odds.

"Being a man in marriage guidance counselling is still regarded as a bit odd by some," says Mr Eggins, who is 48 and married for the second time with twin teenage boys. "But nowadays when I go to the pub, men follow me around wanting to confess and I just want a quiet beer . . .

"I came into counselling because I was effectively counselled myself, by a man, when my first marriage was breaking up because we couldn't have children. I was so touched that I wanted to put something back."

The effectiveness of male as opposed to female counsellors is roughly the same in so far as these things can be measured.

Underfunding of counselling organisations is a serious issue. Experts estimate that more than 400,000 people may soon be seeking help and, at the LMG, Mrs Olins despairs about funds to provide cover. Francis Davis at Marriage Care, which serves Roman Catholics (6,000 clients a year), says many more people in rural or deprived areas are in need but there just isn't the money.

All the guidance groups want to encourage more prewedding counselling, which usually amounts to a couple of sessions about expectations: where to live, who will be the main breadwinner, if and when to have babies and so on. When similar plans were put forward by counselling groups in the United States a few weeks ago, they were met with ridicule here. But consider our legal aid bill for divorce, now running at £332 million a year, and the 632 children a day presented with the sadness of divorce, made more devastating by the fact that 40,000 fathers a year become cut off from their children. Some 12,750,000 people in Britain (half of them children) have been involved in divorce — one fifth of our population.

Then consider the £3 million given by the Government in grants to the marriage guidance agencies and you see an imbalance which itself demonstrates how our attitude to the problem lags so far behind reality.

There is an explosion of unregulated counselling because of the huge need and, as Mrs Knowles, says: "God knows who can set themselves up." Indeed there is nothing to stop anyone setting themselves up as a counsellor. My own bad experiences with counselling shows how easy it is to go wrong. Magazines such as *Loot* and *Private Eye* are full of relationship counselling adverts, put in by everyone from Harley Street hypnotherapists to a man in Hendon who I rang out of curiosity only to be told that he had to rush off to his other job, as a security man in Grosvenor Square. There is even an advert for telephone counselling, but every time I rang the answerphone was on.

If the experts had the money to help it would be better than this lottery. And better if we jettison the muddled attitude towards marriage guidance so that, in a country with twice the divorce rate of the rest of Europe, we can radically shift our thinking about marriage and divorce.

● *Some names in this feature have been changed.*

TIM GRAHAM

Even the most propitious marriages can end in tears unless couples are clear about their expectations. The Princess of Wales has turned to counselling to help her to cope with divorce

STEPHEN HARVEY

Clive and Erika Packer learnt to listen to each other

Cover photograph of Lucy Selleck
by STEPHEN HARVEY

IS YOUR MARRIAGE IN TROUBLE?

NONE of these means that your divorce is imminent. They are the flash points commonly recognised by Relate and the LMG.

1 An affair, never forgotten and never quite forgiven. The breaking of trust.
2 The first baby: men can stop seeing their wife as a sexual being and think of her as a mother (worse still, their mother). The baby intrudes, takes its mother's time and husband gets jealous.
3 The "accidental baby". When one partner doesn't want children and the other does, an accident provokes long-term resentment even if the father loves his child.
4 Age gap, ten years or more. The different habits of different generations and lower energy levels of the older partner. If it's an older woman, her inability to have a child.
5 Marrying a twin or triplet. Multiple birth children can have identity problems as adults, preferring their sibling to their partner.
6 Violence. Often copied from childhood experience. Women with violent fathers tend to marry violent husbands.
7 Redundancy. Wives can't cope with the changed circumstances. Husbands can't cope with the shame.
8 Starting a business at home.
9 Marrying a different race, or class. Habits, traditions and language grate.
10 If it's always the wife who telephones his mother.
11 Not talking to each other.
12 Money and different approaches to it.
13 Lack of job security, leading to long hours.
14 Bringing office behaviour home.
15 Sex problems
16 The mid-life crisis for both sexes.
17 The empty nest syndrome.
18 An overpowerful mother-in-law, or father-in-law.
19 Possessiveness. Where a husband has a very young sibling, he may have resented it in childhood and over jealously, not want to share his wife.
20 Alcoholism.
21 Infertility.
22 Where either partner is adopted.
23 Christmas, Easter and summer holidays. Weekends. When the couple are thrown together.
24 Retirement. The loss of status and change in way of life.
25 Snoring and deafness.
26 Bereavement, especially of a mother or father.
27 A child's serious long-term illness.
28 Child's death.
29 Unpunctuality.
30 Promises made and *not* kept.

THE DUX BED.

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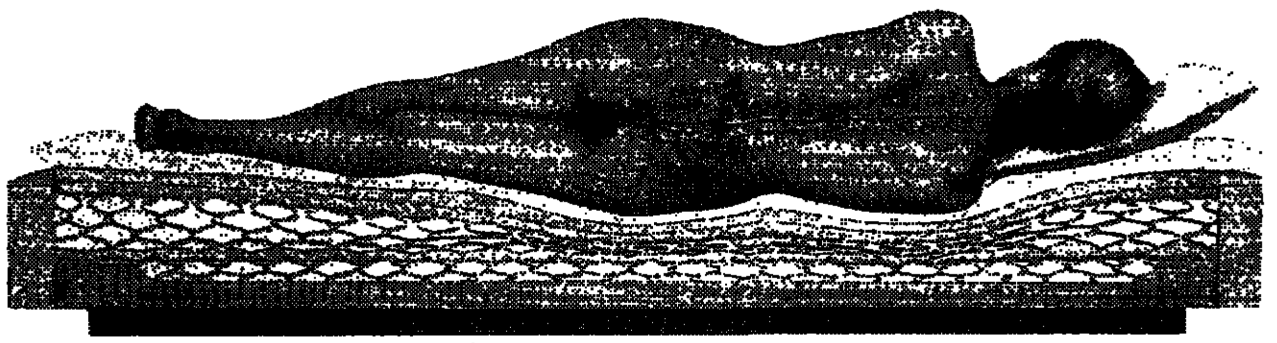

This is how your spine should rest while you sleep – in a completely natural position.

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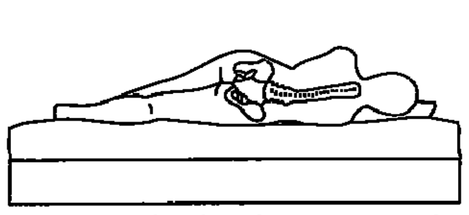

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Ruth Gledhill worships at a bustling church in Brixton, south London

A religious success story

WE WERE only a short distance from the gentility of Chelsea, but I had shivered and wound up the car windows as I turned onto the Brixton Road and entered the nearest thing London has to a no-go area. Yet nothing was as I had expected.

Fifteen years ago, Christ Church's Byzantine beauty was hidden by dirt, decay and pigeon droppings. The barbed wire around it kept out worshippers as well as vandals. The church was considered a dying relic of a bygone age and its demise was confidently expected. But the six refuseniks who went there each Sunday, even when the vicarage was so badly damaged by vandalism it was razed to the ground, refused to countenance its closure by the Church of England. Their appeal went to the Privy Council. They won, and acquired the curate from the neighbouring church, the Rev Nigel Godfrey, as vicar.

The church, despite its large size, now seems too small for everything that is happening there. New premises are being sought nearby for expansion. But Christ Church has been transfigured into one of the most extraordinary success stories in the established church — one to confound this century's ceaseless harbingers of religious doom.

I was there for Thursday's midday office, which was held in an adjoining flat occupied by a trainee woman priest, because an opera company had taken over the church. To the strains of *La Bohème*, we prayed for the mentally ill, the depressed and disabled.

Unlike so many churches, Christ Church does not shut its doors in the week and is sought out as a sanctuary by nearby office workers as well as the unemployed and mentally ill. With the help of £2 million raised by the congregation, from charities, the diocese and other supporters such as the Church Urban Fund, it has become a hive of voluntary and paid labour, with every space put to use. Even the belfry has been converted into living accommodation. Father Godfrey prefers to camp out beneath the rafters. His new vicarage has been handed over to the volunteers who work in the church.

Hundreds of people pass through the doors on Sunday. Different denominations take it in turns to meet beneath the magnificent dome. During the week, the building's excellent acoustics make it popular with musicians, generating useful income. Staff, volunteers and any passing worshipper can follow the Franciscan cycle of daily prayers.

The church offices are built onto a balcony overlooking the nave. Beneath is a space converted into a meeting area for local groups and societies. A small, intimate chapel and library have been built into the church and there is a thriving charity shop and café.

Runner-up in the recent Church Urban Fund's Keystones competition to find churches which best serve their local community, it has turned its hall behind into a complex of workshops.

Theft and vandalism remain daily realities, and windows are safeguarded with attractive metal defences. With its bustle and vibrancy, this church bore comparison with the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem — although in Brixton there was more harmony. I left feeling reinvigorated, but could not help saying a prayer of thanks that my car remained where I had left it.

Christ Church, 96 Brixton Road, North Brixton, London SW9 6BE. Tel: 0171-587 0375.

Entry coupon for Preacher of the Year: see The Times Home News pages in Section One.

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A one to five star guide* ★

VICAR:
The Rev Nigel Godfrey.

ARCHITECTURE:
Built for 1,400 people in 1902 by Sir Arthur Beresford Pite in the style of the Byzantine revival. ★★★★

SERMON:
None at our service, but the activity and atmosphere of the church spoke for itself.

LITURGY:
Hymn, reading, daily collect and prayers. Brief but lovely. ★★★★

MUSIC:
Mary Huston, training for the priesthood, accompanied us skilfully on guitar. ★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE:
Unbeatable lunch in the church's own Van Gogh café, named after the artist who once lived nearby. ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH:
I would not have believed this church had I not seen it. ★★★★

Need a new mower? **Stephen Anderton** looks at the latest developments and **Nigel Hawkes** offers a guide to alternative lawnsmanship

New machines at the cutting edge

Fine turf and gravel paths or drives can make sorry partners. The gravel finds its way on to the lawns. spun from the wheels of cars or carried by wellies. Then it gets into lawnmowers, jamming between the bottom blade and the cylinder and spoiling the cutting edges. The result can be a streak of unkempt grass in an otherwise immaculate sward.

The rotating blades of the cylinder and the bottom blade should meet like scissors, and when one of the blades is damaged the only way to restore full contact is to have it reground. Until recently that meant taking the whole machine to the repairers. Now Atco-Qualcast has launched a range of mowers with a removable cylinder and bottom blade cassette, which is less cumbersome to take to a repairer for regrinding. It is called the QX (Quick Exchange) system and is available in the Atco, Qualcast and Suffolk Punch ranges. (*Rival manufacturer Dennis has a similar system but its machines are aimed at the professional market.*)

And why could you not take the cylinder out of an old-style mower? Well you could, but it meant disconnecting drives, handling the sharp blades and, of course, if the bottom blade was damaged it was easier to give the whole machine to the repairer so that he could set it up to cut properly after regrinding

The QX system requires the removal of a few nuts and bolts, after which the cassette can be pulled out by its carrying handle. It is not exactly child's play but, then, I would not wish to use a mower whose blades were fixed in any less securely. (EC safety legislation is now so restrictive that too much safety rather than too little is usually the problem. On some rotary mowers the engine is designed to cut out every time you stop to empty the grass box. Barmy.)

Blade cassettes can make repairs a great deal easier

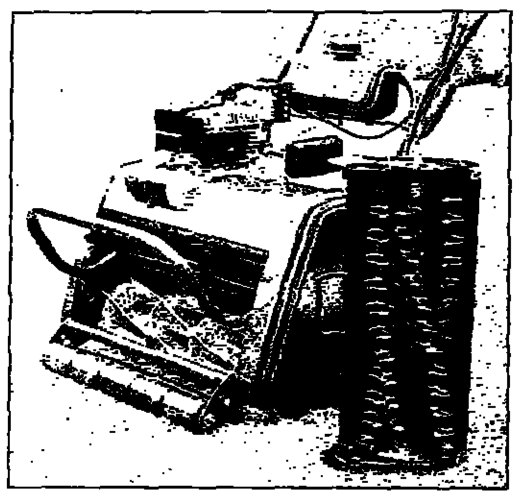
There are many advantages to the QX system. DIY mechanics can do their own servicing in winter and pay only to have the blade unit sharpened. Little-used mowers may go perhaps two years between full servicing but have the blade unit sharpened each year. Atco-Qualcast hopes to persuade its service agents to stock spare cassettes to lend to customers.

To be fair to rivals of Atco-Qualcast and Dennis, the idea of removable cutting units on triple mowers has been around for years. These are the mowers, usually of the ride-on type, which trail a trio of hydraulic cylinder cutting units. Each unit is relatively easy to drop from the machine but is nowhere near as manageable as the Atco cassette.

Among smaller mowers for pedestrian use, the cassette is a welcome development. Not that all cylinder mower owners spend the summer going backwards and forwards with blades for repair. Most seasons will pass without accident, and a removable blade is probably of greatest advantage to the lawn perfectionist.

The clever thing about the QX system is that, having developed a removable cutting cassette, the logical conclusion (which Atco and Dennis have reached) is to see what else can be slotted into the machine. The obvious choice was a scarifier, and all QX models can double up as a powered scarifier.

The larger petrol machines, for bigger areas, can take a 20in-wide scarifier, but the electric machines stop at 14in. This is just as I would hope, because scarifying is a tough business and will pass more vibration and general wear and tear into the machine than simple mowing. The tines (little rakes) which do the work are set in a spiral arrangement on the cassette so that, as it rotates, contact with the lawn is constant and even, and the vibration minimised. Wear and tear apart, combining a mower and scarifier in one machine makes sense, not least because it is one less machine clogging up the garden shed and one less engine to service.


Atco's removable cylinder/bottom blade cassette

● *Atco-Qualcast, Suffolk Works, Milton Road East, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1EY (01449 612183), makes mower-scarifiers for domestic gardens from £170, and heavy-duty mower-scarifiers from £350. Dennis, Ashbourne Road, Kirk Langley, Derby DE6 4NJ (01332 824777), makes heavy-duty mower-scarifiers from £2,200, plus VAT. Ransomes (Sims and Jefferies), Ransomes Way, Ipswich IP3 9QG (01473 270000), makes quality large-cylinder mowers from £1,510, plus VAT.*

JULIAN HERBERT

Nigel Hawkes with his collection of lawnmowers — (from left, front row) a Hayter 20in cylinder, an 18in Hayter rotary and a Flymo cultivator

The art of coarse mowing

The happy day is fast approaching when you haul the mower from the garden shed, give a sharp pull on the starter cord and . . . it breaks.

Even if it doesn't, the odds are the engine won't start, the blades are rusty, or the grass has already grown too long to cut except by touring to and fro, to and fro until sunset.

For most of us, immaculately striped lawns are as attainable as the dark side of the moon. So why not join the Company of Coarse Mowers, folk who get their fun not from the velvety sheen of the lawn but from unrepentently thumbing their noses at the rules?

I once bought a book titled *Be Your Own Lawn Expert*, by Dr D.G. Hessayon. On page I it asked you to classify your lawn: was it first class, second class or something in between? Mine was BA Calcutta (failed).

Coarse Mowers read everything that is written about lawn care, but only to disregard it. Every autumn they rejoice in the annual articles telling them how to put their mowers to bed for the winter. The master of this prose-form is W.F. Deedes, better known as Lord Deedes, whose mower articles sing from the page.

He recommends, *inter alia*, that sumps should be drained and refilled, fuel tanks should be drained (using a pipette) and cleaned internally with a cloth-wrapped screwdriver, that the spark plug is removed and "an eggspoon of oil" is dropped on the piston head. Oil filters should be removed and cleaned in detergent, boiled linseed oil applied to the rollers (if made of wood) and so on, and on, and on. It takes a whole day.

Coarse Mowers do none of these things. They drive the mower into the shed, turn off the engine and shut the door. It takes a whole minute.

But doesn't this shorten the mower's life? Of course, but the point is that Coarse Mowers never buy new machines, or get the old ones serviced. They acquire machines from friends, or from eccentrics who buy them at country auctions and do them up.

TIP 1: it is nearly always cheaper to buy a second-hand mower than to get one serviced.

One of my small collection, a Toro rotary, cost me £35 at least ten years ago and has been going, more or less, ever since. It once had a self-starter and battery, but that was long before I owned it. We Coarse Mowers disdain such frippery devices. The only way to get this mower started is to wind a cord around the pulley, yank hard, grip the roaring machine with both hands, and take off like Linford Christie.

Starting mowers after a winter of neglect is one of the treats of spring.

TIP 2: if it won't start, take the plug out, wave it around in the air, clean it with a grubby handkerchief and put it back in.

This won't do any good but it shows you mean well. Or you could try a trick taught me by a man who sold me the worst mower I ever owned. He took the plug out, cleaned it and then rubbed the electrodes with an ordinary lead pencil. The graphite in the pencil was supposed to make the spark leap with unaccustomed zeal between the points. Does it work? Heaven knows, but it makes you feel better.

TIP 3: if it won't start, try taking out the air filter.

If you haven't followed advice about cleaning the filter — what do I mean, *if* — it will be clogged. An engine once given a chance to breathe will often go. Then you can put the dirty filter back in again.

TIP 4: never get rid of old mowers if you can possibly find somewhere to store them.

There will always come a day when, however awful they are, they become better than the one you are using. And if, like me, you have a weakness for a particular brand, there is always the chance of cannibalising parts. "Sooner or Later You'll buy Another Hayter" is my motto.

What to do with the cuttings is another problem area. Some years ago an academic from, I think, Reading University, declared that cuttings were best left to moulder on the ground. As this takes far less effort than collecting them, I naturally seized on the advice. The result was a lawn so full of thatch that it could have re-roofed Anne Hathaway's cottage. Rotten advice, Reading.

So now I collect the cuttings and pile them into what are laughingly called compost heaps. Grass doesn't compost, actually: not even if you add chopped up copies of *The Times* or compost accelerator: not even if you turn the heap weekly (not that I have ever tried this, but I just know it wouldn't work).

What emerges from my heaps is not compost but foul-smelling silage. The only member of the household to appreciate it is the dog, who plunges his face and paws into it and then trots indoors. But, spread on the vegetable garden and worked in, the silage eventually disappears, and it doesn't seem to do much harm.

WEEKEND TASKS

- *Prune* Buddleia davidii *hard back to a framework of older wood, even though this means losing some new shoots.*
- *Cut down newly planted raspberry canes to 9in high. Apply potash to established canes.*
- *Begin outdoor sowings of broad beans, brussels sprouts, carrots, parsnips and summer spinach.*
- *Stand pots of flowered narcissi or hyacinths in a light, cool place, such as a cold frame, to die down, or plant out in the garden.*

S.A.

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q At the back of my house, and shaded by it, is a steep earth bank. During heavy rain, water washes the soil down the bank. What ground cover plants would stabilise the soil? — G.A. Taylor, North Curry, Somerset.

A You need plants that bind tightly under the soil as well as on the surface, so plants with only a tap root will not do. You also need plants which, if not evergreen, retain cover through the winter to prevent erosion. Grass is the most efficient cover. Otherwise, try *Geranium macrorrhizum*, pulmonarias, *Alchemilla mollis*, bergenias, lily of the valley, day lilies, male ferns, hostas, *Persicaria affinis*, Solomon's seal, and *Trachystemon orientalis*. Plant more thickly than is necessary to speed up cover.

Q I have a weeping 'Kilmarnock' willow on a 28in stem in a mixed border. How can I maintain its umbrella effect, have plenty of "pussies", and not have branches reaching the ground? — Mrs G. H. Preston, Lymington, Hampshire.

A This form of *Salix caprea* is grown for its stiff, weeping habit, and must be grafted on to a stem of the ordinary, upright *S. caprea*. It is a male clone and has golden pussy willow catkins. (The silver catkin form is known as Weeping Sally.) To keep it well-flowered and healthy, and to maintain a regular, fresh fountain of weeping stems, requires regular cutting. This is done by thinning the canopy and shortening back some growths at the top. The flowers are produced best on the branches which receieve the most light, so it is important not to to take off all the outer branches when thinnning. The longer branches may be shortened back in autumn so that they do not sweep the ground.

This is a curiously formal plant, and not everyone's favourite. It is widely available as a waist-high standard, but it might be interesting to use it on a 6ft or 7ft stem as curtains to a pergola or weeping over the top of a wall.

● *Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

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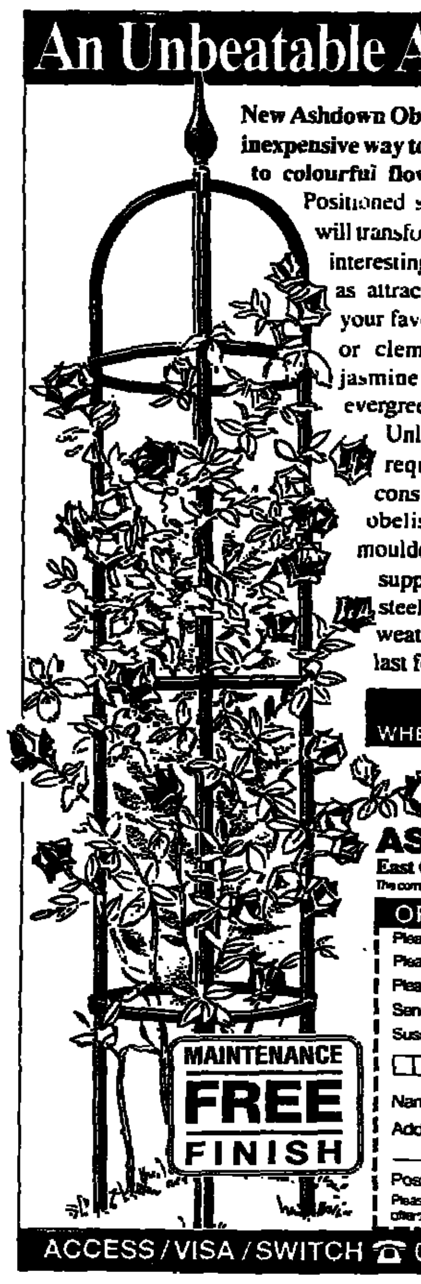

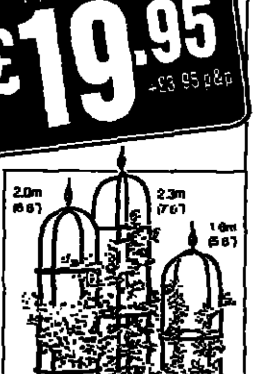

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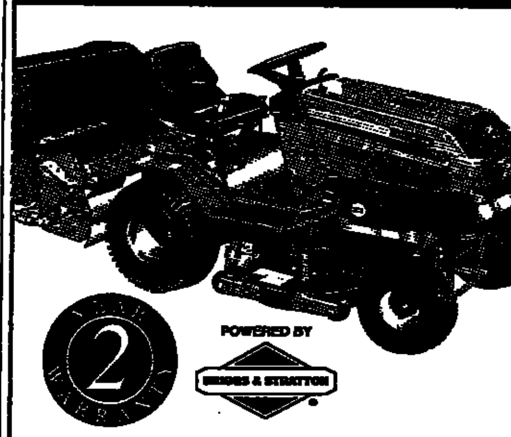

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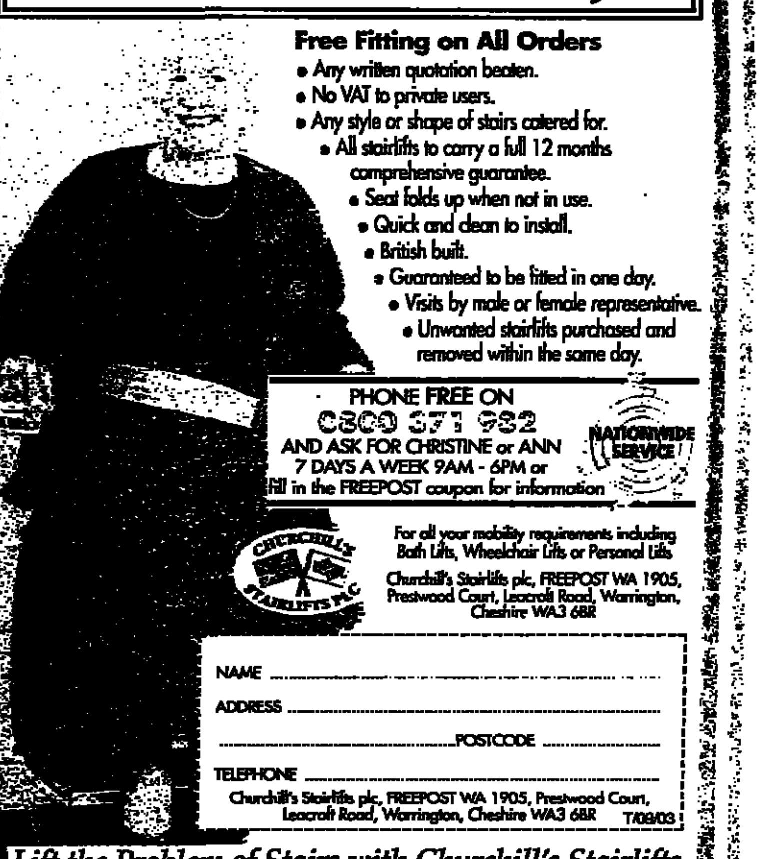

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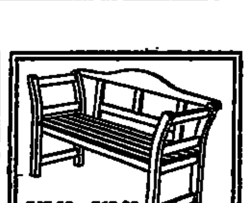

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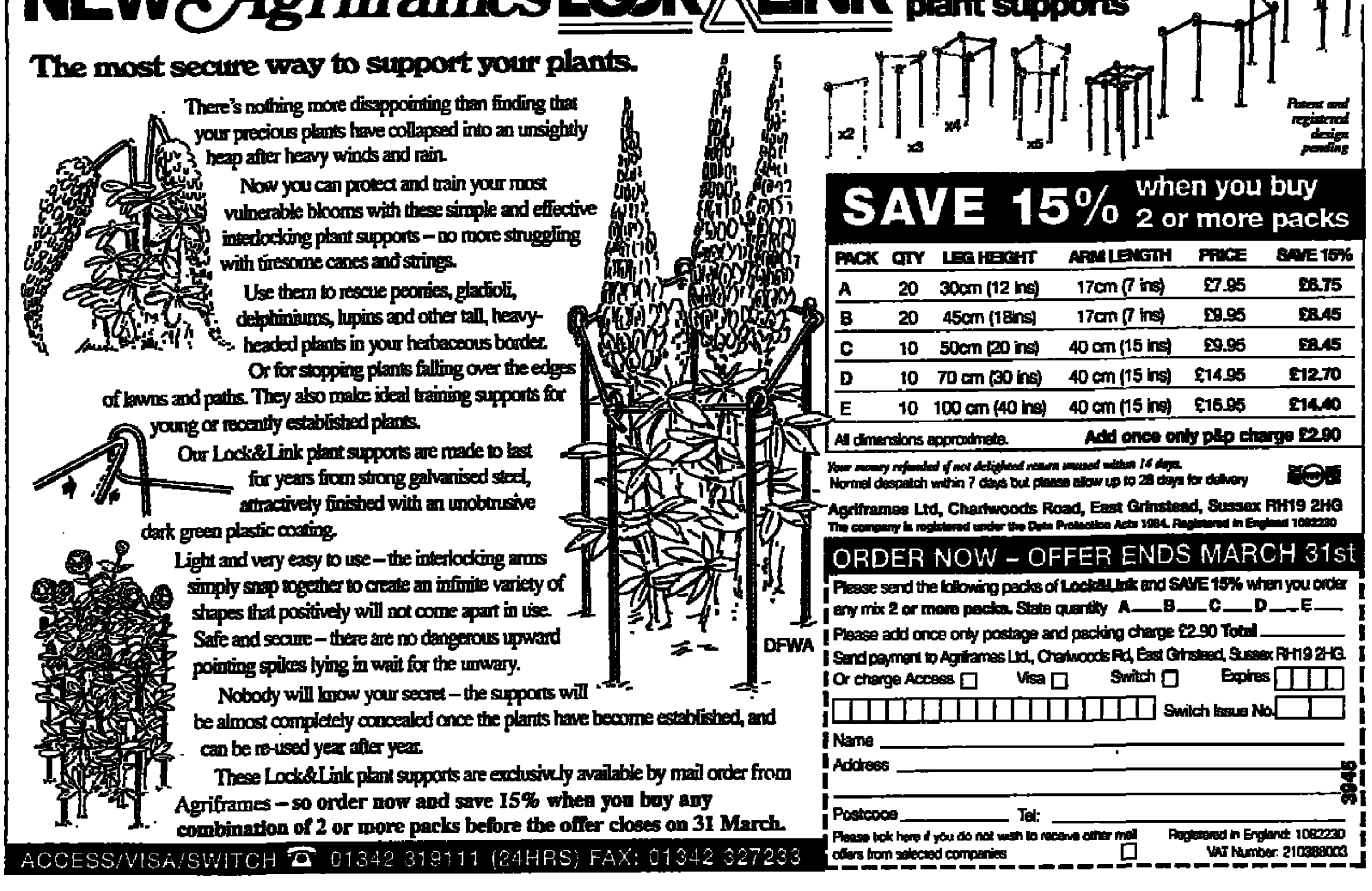

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Riper with the years

Derwent May hails half a century of Penguin Classics

Some readers are going to get a frisson of nostalgia when they go into a bookshop this weekend. They will see on the shelves the cover — pale brown with a blue ship on it — of E. V. Rieu's translation of *The Odyssey*, which launched the Penguin Classics series 50 years ago.

Penguin Books has brought out a facsimile of this epoch-making book, at £5, as part of its anniversary celebrations for the series. Rieu had begun his translation before the Second World War, and finished it in 1944 to the sound of V1 and V2 explosions — "an accompaniment," he said, "which would have chimed in better with the more warlike *Iliad*".

The Odyssey proved, however, to be the book of the peace. As the Penguin historian, Steve Hare, has said, the story of Odysseus "perfectly summed up the difficulties faced by thousands returning home to people and places that might be almost forgotten".

But there was more to its success than that. Penguin books had become close companions of innumerable people during the war, both cheering them up and feeding a new longing for knowledge. Penguins were trusted. So when *The Odyssey* came out, as the first of a new series that promised to bring the great foreign classics to the man in the street in fresh, readable and accurate translations, there was a tremendous rush to buy it, and eventually it sold three million copies.

Rieu was appointed editor of the series, and soon new volumes translated by first-class writers were flowing in. Robert Graves asked if he could do Apuleius's *The Golden Ass*. ("The obscenity is not impossible by 1946 standards," he told Rieu). Dorothy Sayers did Dante. She wrote a verse to be pinned up at the bookbinders, to prevent them mixing up the sheets with those of other books:

The title of the book you
have to bind
Is The INFERNO —
please bear this in mind;
The English word is
HELL, so you will know
In case of doubt, exactly
where to go.

Russian, Spanish, Norwegian and Far Eastern classics, among others, soon joined the list, and in 1966 the Penguin English Library was started as a sister series.

Pelican Classics — new editions of important books on philosophy, history and politics — and the Penguin American Library completed the picture, and all four series were merged under the name Penguin Classics in 1986. By now the series was known as "the black classics" because of the unmistakable black or black-panelled covers.

To mark this year's fiftieth anniversary, a whole new batch of volumes has just appeared. A particularly striking new group is *The Psalms in English, Virgil in English* (both £8.99), *Homer in English* and *Horace in English* (both £9.99). *The Psalms*, for example, has a brilliant introductory essay by its editor, the late Donald Davie, investigating the original character of the psalms, and wittily but sympathetically bringing out the way English translators have Christanised them. The sturdy collection of English versions ranges from Sir Thomas Wyatt to Thomas Hardy and ends with the translator who Davie says will be "most influential in the forseeable future", David L. Frost, 150 of whose versions are in the *Alternative Service Book*.

The other three volumes are equally wide-ranging, and *Horace* also includes English poems that have been decisively influenced by Horace (concluding with one by Davie).

As a companion to Rieu's *Odyssey*, we now get Alexander Pope's verse *Iliad* (£16), which Samuel Johnson thought was "the greatest version of poetry the world has ever seen". All Pope's own notes are included. *Love-Letters between a Nobleman and His Sister*, an almost forgotten novel of adultery at Charles II's court by the Restoration dramatist Aphra Behn, is dusted down and given a new chance (£6.99).

Other names that beckon from the new list are Euripides, Chaucer, Anne Brontë, Jan Potocki, Kierkegaard and Lady Murasaki, who was tutor to the Empress of Japan 1,000 years ago. Penguin Books may have had its upheavals lately — but clearly it has not lost sight of its original ambitions.

Cookson's private recipe

The doyenne of popular women's fiction remains inimitable, says **Helen Dunmore**

CATHERINE COOKSON has written more than 75 novels. She is a Dame of the British Empire, a publishing phenomenon, a woman of remarkable personal generosity and a writer whose compulsion to write is matched only by her readers' eagerness to consume.

Bought worldwide, televised, serialised, one title succeeds the next. They feed an appetite which demands the familiar. Readers want to be in Cookson Country, and they know its topography and characters as intimately as Cookson does.

Cookson novels are about hardship, the intractability of life and of individuals, the struggle first to survive and next to make sense of one's survival. Humour, toughness, resolution and generosity are Cookson virtues, in a world which

■ THE UPSTART
By Catherine Cookson
Bantam Press, £16.99

■ THE DEVIL YOU KNOW
By Josephine Cox
Headline, £16.99

she often depicts as cold and violent. The scales are tipped against women, sexually and economically. Cookson's novels are weighted and driven by her own early experiences of illegitimacy and poverty. This is what gives them power, even when they are flawed by melodrama.

The Upstart is a family story without a shred of cosiness. Samuel Fairbrother, a successful shoe manufacturer, is torn by inner conflict and is disastrous in his impact on his wife and children. Cookson's skill lies in portraying this man with sympathy and insight, while not softening his children's alienation.

Cookson Country, like *Coronation Street*, has the extreme lifelikeness of somewhere that does not exist and probably could never have existed. But we want to believe that it exists. Vera Duckworth bawls across the bar in her own never-never land, and Gran in *The Upstart* declares: "I'll put what adjectives I like to women of God, and to anybody else who is as bloody tactless as she is."

To measure Cookson's achievement as a popular novelist, one has to look at her rivals. Josephine Cox, like Cookson, has a biography which is "as extraordinary as anything in her novels", to quote the back flap of her new novel, *The Devil You Know*, which contains five murders, two suicides, assorted assaults, illegitimacy and three weddings.

Much of the writing is formulaic and cliché-ridden. The plot turns on the flight to Blackburn of Sonny Fareham, who has discovered that her married lover is planning to impregnate her and then steal the baby for his barren wife. There is some carelessness in plotting. In an important scene Sonny goes alone to register her child, and Cox seems unaware that an unmarried woman

Cookson: a compulsion to write

cannot just name a man as father of her child when registering its birth without any supporting evidence.

There are hints of vigour and shrewdness in *The Devil You Know*, but on the whole its weaknesses point up the strengths of Cookson's storytelling. In the specialised world of women's popular fiction, Cookson has created her own territory.

Making a splash: Jacqueline and Caroline Kennedy at Hyannis Port, photographed by Mark Shaw, 1959, from *Life with Mother*, studies of mothers and their children, by the editors of *Life* magazine (Little, Brown, £9.99)

Hostages to their good fortune

THIS is a big book cunningly disguised as a small one. Its monumental themes of sin, loss, catharsis and redemption are rich seams buried deep in a landscape which shifts from the somnolent suburbs to the litter-strewn streets of inner-city London. In between, the fortress of a happy life is dismantled brick by brick down to the barest, shabby frame.

Every page is a testament to the storyteller's skill at drawing you into the lives of her characters. As a consummate actor can make you forget that he is acting, Moggach's observations about the awkward, tangled self-consciousness of a teenage girl, the working mother's guilt, the anxiety of parenthood and, more impressive still, the complicated inner lives of her sad, little villains are so vivid and so true that you can forget that this is fiction. And yet this is artful fiction

■ SEESAW
By Deborah Moggach
Heineman, £14.99

indeed: the plot twists and turns and shocks like a knife plunging into a wound.

Normal life for the Price family comes to an end at the beginning of the book, when they are the undeserving recipients of a free holiday to Florida, and their good fortune is captured by the local newspaper. Undeserving, because they are already so comfortably off: the large detached house; Hannah and Becky, the daughters, with their expensive education; Val, their interior designer mother, who keeps the fridge permanently stocked with Marks & Spencer's roulades; Morris, the angsty Jewish husband with his beloved security firm.

They are extravagantly well-off, according to Eva, the agent of their downfall, who kidnaps Hannah with the bumbling help of her lover, Jon. Without giving too much away, it is probably safe to say that the Prices' troubles only start with what should be the happy ending. There are some lovely writerly touches: the bushes with their sound "like soft little hands rubbing together": Morris walking to the car, with the ransom money in a pair of supermarket bags, "weighed like a housewife with the price of his daughter".

It is the telling detail as much as the thrust of the drama which makes this book so compelling. As the story closes in, Hannah learns to see feelingly, and a surprising coupling bears unexpected fruit in which lies the chance for renewal. Ripeness, we discover, is indeed all.

GINNY DOUGARY

King's Road conspirators

THERE is something instinctively off-putting about a book which trumpets "hooray" from Stephen Fry on its dust jacket even before publication. Add a few lines of self-consciously literary smart talk from Will Self and the whole thing begins to smack suspiciously of a conspiracy in luvviedom. A thriller for the chattering classes, by the chattering classes, about the chattering classes.

Most of this world would seem completely alien to anyone who lives outside the Bermuda triangle of smart-set London, from Notting Hill to Soho and South Kensington. David Huggins's characters inhabit a demi-monde coloured by brand names: the Shogun, the Timberlands, the Beck's and the Marlboro Lights, where the name itself is enough to define both the product and the lifestyle. Great lines such as "hair so black you could imagine Stan Lee inking in a blue highlight" will mean little to those unfamiliar with the charms of vintage Marvel comics.

But people like Steve and Tony, Liz and Mary, Alan and Claire really do exist. Theirs is a world of life or death in the design department, small-time entrepreneurs on the fringes of the big-time world of fashion and business that lies forever a step or two beyond the end of King's Road.

Huggins has done the politically correct — and increasingly accurate — thing, by making the hard financial hustlers female, relegating the men to a world of fragile egos and physical violence. Steve and Tony are classic failed flowers of the 1980s, unable to survive the hard knocks of the recession-prone 1990s and cannon fodder for the Machia-

■ THE BIG KISS
By David Huggins
Picador, £12.99

vellian Alan and his corporate strategist, Sally.

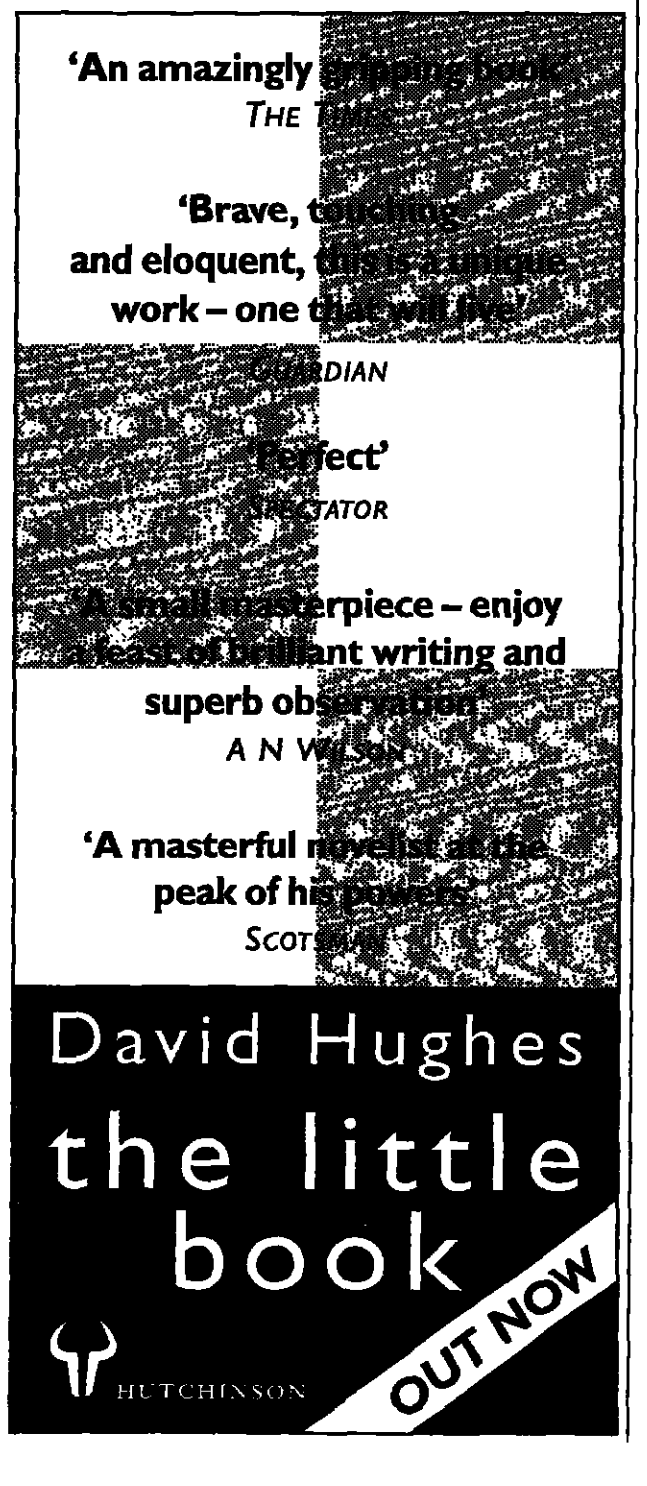
Tony is a drunk: Steve is off his trolley, or at least going that way, aided and abetted by all around him. As his hip, middle-class idyll collapses, he begins to wonder whether he or the world around him is the madder. Is a daily dose of lithium better or worse than the occasional snort of "coke" or regular "weed" abuse? Not to mention other drugs, such

Huggins: local appeal

as handcuffs and black silk ties. The violence moves seamlessly from the psychological to the physical, culminating in a great blow-out of brutality, nicely relieved by an improbable deus ex machina. The Seventh Cavalry never practised tae kwon do.

This is an ephemeral little set piece but it is great entertainment if you are familiar with the landscape. Definitely one to be seen reading on the Central Line. If you are anyone who knows anyone.

PETER MILLAR



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Daily Telegraph
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Through a bottle, clearly

■ LEAVING LAS VEGAS
By John O'Brien
Pan, £4.99

JOHN O'BRIEN killed himself just before his novel, *Leaving Las Vegas*, was optioned for film. The fact that Ben, his protagonist, drinks himself to death — O'Brien, an alcoholic, shot himself — has led to much myth-making: the success of Mike Figgis's movie has brought the hype to a high pitch. Disappointment would seem inevitable.

But this is a fine, painful book. Its central characters, Ben and Sera, do not give a damn what the world thinks of them: the same could be said of the work as a whole. Ben is a drunk determined to drink until he dies. Sera, with whom he falls in love, is a prostitute: how she came to be what she is is unexplored.

This gives the novel the flat, gleaming surface of a relentless present, and what better setting than Las Vegas, where all that counts is the next dollar, the next drink, the next card out of the shoe?

The book pivots around Ben and Sera's relationship, though to call their friendship, where each accepts the other absolutely on their own terms, redemptive would be wrong. But so strongly does O'Brien impress their feelings upon the reader that the bitter resolution seems just right.

O'Brien's writing demands attention for its honesty. This is the way things are, it seems to say. Do not make judgments until you have been here. Despite the haze of sex and alcohol, this novel has a clear gaze indeed.

ERICA WAGNER

THE TIMES

Martell invite you to a Grand National lunch

The Martell Grand National is the world's greatest steeplechase. To celebrate its fifth year of sponsorship, Martell Cognac is offering readers of *The Times* an exclusive invitation to a special gourmet luncheon.

Guests will have the choice of dining at either Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons or L'Ortolan, two of Britain's finest restaurants. Both have created a special menu of four courses for a memorable lunch, each one accompanied by a carefully chosen wine. After the leisurely lunch on Saturday, March 30, guests will watch the race on a large-screen television with a glass of Martell Cordon Bleu Cognac and special Martell Grand National chocolates.

Both restaurants have been awarded two Michelin stars.

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* * * * *

Mascarpone ice cream and coffee-bean sauce

Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons, at Church Road, Great Milton, Oxfordshire offers the cuisine of Raymond Blanc, left. L'Ortolan, below, in Church Lane, Shinfield, Berkshire, is an elegant country restaurant set in an 18th-century vicarage and run by the award-winning team of Christine and John Burton-Race.

Tickets are £65 per person, including luncheon, wines, cognac, service and VAT. Numbers are strictly limited and applications will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis.

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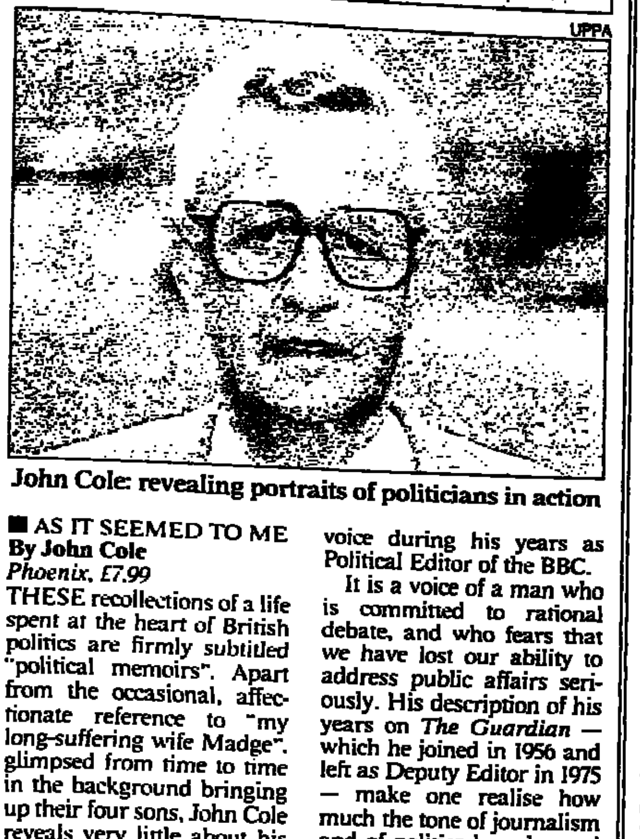


John Cole: revealing portraits of politicians in action

■ AS IT SEEMED TO ME
By John Cole
Phoenix, £7.99

THESE recollections of a life spent at the heart of British politics are firmly subtitled "political memoirs". Apart from the occasional, affectionate reference to "my long-suffering wife Madge", glimpsed from time to time in the background bringing up their four sons, John Cole reveals very little about his personal life.

This is not an impersonal book, however, for his enjoyment of the cut and thrust of politics and his appreciation of the people in it, rise from the page as clearly as they came across the airwaves in his unforgettable Ulster voice during his years as Political Editor of the BBC.

It is a voice of a man who is committed to rational debate, and who fears that we have lost our ability to address public affairs seriously. His description of his years on *The Guardian* — which he joined in 1956 and left as Deputy Editor in 1975 — make one realise how much the tone of journalism and of politics has changed since then.

Trusted and liked by Members of all parties, from Harold Wilson to John Major, Cole provides revealing close-ups of politicians in action, as well as an enjoyable self-portrait of a wily old newsman at work.

■ ELECTRICITY
By Victoria Glendinning
Arrow, £5.99

GROWING up in London at the end of the 19th century, Charlotte Mortimer's world is constricted by convention. Peter Fisher marries her and takes her away to Hertfordshire, where he will be employed by the dashing Lord Godwin to wire his home for light. Glendinning's tale is a vibrant examination of a society in transition; parallels with the end of the 20th century spark and crackle.

■ CASTING OFF
By Libby Purves
Sceptre, £5.99

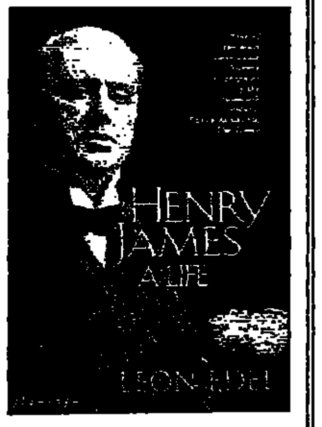
JOANNA GURNEY has nothing really dramatic to complain about — it's just that, at 38, she's stifled by running her small-town cake shop, her kids take her for granted and her marriage, to a comfortable solicitor, seems passionless and desperately dull. So, one stormy afternoon, she impulsively commandeers the family's small sloop and embarks on her own solo voyage of discovery. What makes the book so compelling is Joanna's personality: thoughtful, determined and grittily humorous. A deeply satisfying read that more than matches *Shirley Valentine* or Joan Barfoot's *Gaining Ground*.

■ REBEL HEARTS
By Kevin Toolis
Picador, £6.99

THE RESUMPTION of the IRA's bombing campaign has given this book a compelling timeliness. Toolis, a Republican sympathiser, has spent ten years reporting on the Troubles. The nationalist community trusts him and, as a result, he has come closer than any previous journalist to explaining why the "ceasefire" would never be permanent. Although you may recoil at the reverential portrayal of zealotry, the book evokes both pity and sorrow.

■ MEMOIRS OF A GNOSTIC DWARF
By David Madsen
Dedalus, £8.99

THE COURSE of Peppe the dwarf's life in the slums of 16th-century Rome changes when he meets the beautiful Laura who teaches him the doctrine of Gnosticism — the theory that the Devil made the world and that man's true home is with God. After she is burnt for heresy her father stalks and finally kills her persecutor. Madsen's tale of how Peppe becomes the Pope's companion and is forced to choose between his master and his beliefs displays both erudition and a real storyteller's gift.



■ HENRY JAMES
By Leon Edel
Flamingo, £12.99

LEON EDEL has devoted his life to Henry James. This single-volume biography is a revised, updated and abridged version of Edel's five-volume *Life of Henry James*; for this edition, the author takes advantage of "changes that have occurred in biographical writing" to explore more fully the reasons for the writer's lifelong celibacy, the nature of the "obscure hurt" he suffered at 18, and his love for his brother William. Edel paints a fascinating portrait of Edith Wharton's "most intimate friend".

Hazel Leslie, Erica Wagner, Glyn Brown, Jason Cowley, Fiona Hook, Nicki Household

Raw chronicles of murderous evil do not help us to fathom its nature, **Bernard Levin** says

What is the mark of Cain?

Written all over their faces? Top (from left) Jeffrey Dahmer, Dennis Nilsen and Gary Gilmore; below, the abduction of James Bulger captured on a security video camera

■ THE EVIL THAT MEN DO
By Brian Masters
Doubleday, £16.99

LET us begin by asking, "Why are some of us good-natured and do nice things, and others apparently wicked and destructive?" I take it that the reader does not imagine that we will have found the answer before we close the book. But we can seek that elusive answer.

The baddies are immediately fingered as the culprits, because villains naturally act by aggression, but it needs only a few moments to see that that is a fallacy. Aggression has two sides; where would we be without leadership or independence? Did not Winston Churchill give us the strength to fight right through the fire? And could he have done so without aggression? For that matter, where would Richard Branson be without it?

Very well, aggression is essential. But it is not the only quality that is necessary; more to the point, where does aggression stop and change into something called "wicked and destructive"?

We take ordinary men and women, and find that we cannot distinguish between them when one is an entirely decent person and the other a murderer. Bad homes can and do breed good people, and good homes can breed the worst in wickedness. Genes, blood, intelligence, body — however we seek for the clue, it eludes us, and this book tries every possible avenue, yet you will close it no wiser than you started.

At that point, we meet really bad aggression: the two ten-year-olds who murdered the two-year-old James Bulger. He was "bludgeoned to death with bricks and an iron bar and his body left on a railway line to be cut in half". Yet the infant murderers had no idea that what they were doing was wicked; they had no idea of what wickedness was, or goodness either. But they were children, and we know better. Unfortunately, we cannot distinguish a murderer from someone who would not hurt a goldfish.

But there is another avenue, not yet fully explored. It is a disturbing one — not disturbing as in the awful killing of the boy, but disturbing in a much closer form. For the author of this book, Brian Masters, has written not one book about evil, but four: the one we are now discussing, three more which have had a very considerable success — *Killing for Company*, *The Shrine of Jeffrey Dahmer* and *Masters on Murder*. Nothing very odd in that, you may say; Masters is a remarkably prolific author. But there is, running just beneath the surface, what I can only call a hideous gloating, in *The Evil That Men Do*. "For a week or more, Michael moved Monika's corpse around the house, frequently talking to it ... Then ... left it there for five months ... dumped the body ... first taking Monika's head off so that he could keep it by him..."

Here is another such story; Masters starts it by saying that "the reader should be warned" — a perfect come-on to make you turn immediately to something dreadful. Anyway ...

"Michael [not the first Michael] ... tore his wife's face apart with his bare hands. He pulled her eyes out of their sockets and tore her tongue from its roots ..."

There are many, many, such horrors in this book, let me give you just one more: "She was suspended naked from beams and whipped ... a wooden box was placed over her head ... she was locked in a larger box, where she defecated and urinated and became filthy. The man ... held her under water until she nearly drowned, taking photographs the while ..."

I am not trying to make you sick; I am trying to make the writer of this book see what he is doing. No doubt he will tell us that these terrible things do happen, and he is only chronicling some of them. True; but that does not exculpate the juicy bits of such books.

For anyone with the smallest clue, the titles of those books should have rung bells; for Masters they did not. Indeed, in the book we are examining, the names of both Nilsen and Dahmer come up again and again and again and again; quotes from Nilsen and Dahmer are strewn through the book.

Naturally, Masters will — does — argue that the book is a scholarly work, and he is only trying to winnow evil from good. It is true that he sprinkles goodness — for instance saints and the saintly. He is also knowledgeable in these matters, and some of the knowledge is new. And, certainly, he does want to find out why some of us are wicked and some good, though right to the end it eludes him, as it eludes everyone.

Perhaps I should not have stressed the very blood-curdling instances, not because the more gentle readers might faint, but because we have a story with not a scrap of blood or pain in it, but more horrible than all the bloodstained and torture-filled ones — the Milgram experiment. You will find it on pages seven and eight, and I assure you that you will never forget it.

In the end, there is no answer, and it is not likely that there will ever be one. We have to leave it where the Gilmore family left it.

Two brothers, Gary and Frank Gilmore: Gary lived a life of crime and was finally executed; Frank lived a decent and peacable life. Their mother said, "One son picked up the gun. The other did not pick up the gun. Why?"

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	KEN HOM'S HOT WOK BOOK **Ken Hom** *(BBC)*	£16.99	1	2
2	PRIMARY COLORS **Anonymous** *(Chatto & Windus)*	£15.99	0	1
3	EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE **Daniel Goleman** *(Bloomsbury)*	£16.99	5	7
4	ROGUE TRADER **Nick Leeson** *(Little, Brown)*	£16.99	0	1
5	CROSS CHANNEL **Julian Barnes** *(Cape)*	£10.99	2	8
6	BEACH MUSIC **Pat Conroy** *(Doubleday)*	£16.99	7	3
7	X-FILES BOOK OF THE UNEXPLAINED Vol 1 **Jane Goldman** *(Simon & Schuster)*	£15.99	9	16
8	SOPHIE'S WORLD **Jostein Gaarder** *(Phoenix)*	£16.99	0	30
9	DELIA SMITH'S WINTER COLLECTION **Delia Smith** *(BBC)*	£15.99	6	20
10	IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ENEMY **Elizabeth George** *(Bantam)*	£16.99	10	2

PAPERBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	TRAINSPOTTING **Irvine Welsh** *(Minerva)*	£6.99	1	27
2	THE RAINMAKER **John Grisham** *(Arrow)*	£5.99	2	5
3	SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS **David Guterson** *(Bloomsbury)*	£5.99	4	24
4	THE STATE WE'RE IN **Will Hutton** *(Vintage)*	£7.99	6	9
5	ACID HOUSE **Irvine Welsh** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	7	16
6	LADDER OF YEARS **Anne Tyler** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	5	4
7	REGENERATION **Pat Barker** *(Penguin)*	£6.99	11	16
8	FINGERPRINTS OF THE GODS **Graham Hancock** *(Mandarin)*	£6.99	9	3
9	THE EYE IN THE DOOR **Pat Barker** *(Penguin)*	£6.99	13	15
10	ROUGH GUIDE TO THE INTERNET **ed. A. J. Kennedy & M. Ellingham** *(Rough Guides)*	£5	0	2
11	MARABOU STORK NIGHTMARES **Irvine Welsh** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	0	5
12	SOPHIE'S WORLD GREEK PHILOSOPHERS **Jostein Gaarder & Paulette Moller** *(Phoenix)*	£0.60	0	6
13	THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO **Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels** *(Phoenix)*	£0.60	0	2
14	SENSE AND SENSIBILITY **Jane Austen** *(Bloomsbury)*	£3.99	0	1
15	A CELESTINE PROPHECY **James Redfield** *(Bantam)*	£7.99	14	15
16	BRAVO TWO ZERO **Andy McNab** *(Corgi)*	£5.99	0	22
17	THE JUROR **George Dawes Green** *(Bantam)*	£5.99	10	9
18	A GUIDE TO HAPPINESS **Epicurus** *(Phoenix)*	£0.60	0	7
19	THE RIDERS **Tim Winton** *(Picador)*	£5.99	0	1
20	FREE TO TRADE **Michael Ridpath** *(Mandarin)*	£5.99	8	7

Any book from this list can be ordered from Dillons Mail Order Tel: 0171 636 1577 Fax: 0171 580 7680 DILLONS

Deadlier than the Maelstrom

■ DINA'S BOOK
By Herbjørg Wassmo
Translated by Nadia M. Christensen
Black Swan, £6.99

HERBJØRG WASSMO'S Norwegian bestseller opens on the edge of a precipice. It is a sunless morning, overshadowed by dark mountains. A wounded man on a sleigh is about to be pushed to his death by a woman. These first few paragraphs prefigure much of what is to come: ruthless and elemental female protagonist; nature at its bleakest and most dominant; simple, direct language broken down into unremittingly short sentences. It is as well to decide straight away whether you like this kind of thing, for a further 527 pages follow.

Set in the more monochrome reaches of the northern Norwegian coast in the middle of the last century, against a rather incidental background of the Crimean War, it is the story of a thoroughly dangerous woman inclined to destroy every man who comes near her via sexual domination.

There is clearly a high personal price to be paid for such misdeeds, however, as heroine Dina spends a lot of time in a wolfskin coat getting drunk and howling in the middle of the night. Lugging around a substantial baggage of ghosts seems to be par for the course in Norway — must be those endless winters.

This is more Nordic brutalism than magic realism; Dina's incorporeal visitors are those whose deaths she has caused, wilfully or otherwise, notably her mother, who was flayed alive by boiling lye and screamed for an entire day before dying.

The cycle of life on the isolated coastal estate is evocatively described: the visiting merchants, the trading trips up the coastline, the seasonal household tasks. The monotony they all endure is great, but there is plenty of bareback riding, bear hunting and salty sea voyages to stop the book from being depressing.

Wassmo has a bold and forceful stride to her prose, with a positively Lawrentian intensity in her treatment of sex, death and nature which, like Lawrence, hovers somewhere between the compelling and the faintly hilarious. A veritable Scandinavian saga.

HARRIET PATERSON

Anatomy of a Japanese character

■ AUDREY HEPBURN'S NECK
By Alan Brown
Sceptre, £9.99

TOSHI OKAMOTO has a thing about American women. On his ninth birthday, he is taken to the cinema, where he falls in love with Audrey Hepburn. In contrast to the squat Japanese women he sees around him, the American with the long neck represents an alternative vision, not just of womanhood but of life.

Toshi's mother has already left the home and the bed she has shared with Toshi and his father since Toshi was born. No explanation is offered to Toshi from either of his parents, and he grows up confused and hurt, feeling guilty and responsible.

He flees to Tokyo while his father continues to run the family shop and his mother works at a nearby inn. Here, there is plenty to draw but "an absence of colour, like the insides of an enormous machine". He gets a job as a comic-book illustrator, befriends a gay American, Paul, and enters a relationship with his English tutor, Jane, who becomes obsessed with him. When Toshi finds himself out of his depth with Jane, he is forced to examine why he is so drawn to outsiders, with painful consequences.

Audrey Hepburn's Neck is a wonderful novel. Not only is it extraordinarily evocative of the mishmash of cultures and mores which is modern Japan, but it has the same qualities — reserve, restraint and underlying passion — of its central character. Toshi, and the two brilliantly reflect one another. Alan Brown captures, with great sensitivity, the isolation of a man whose best friend is a wealthy, gay American, whose girlfriends are always American, but whose parents do not speak to one another, nor to him, and who have offered him no hint of his own history.

Gradually, Toshi realises that the Japan of his childhood is dying along with the Emperor, whose waning blood pressure is flashed in neon above the city. Americans come to Tokyo looking for something but, as Toshi points out, "everything foreigners like about Japan was already over before [he] was born". But Toshi, too, is looking, and eventually his search for love and a sense of identity reach an unexpected and profoundly moving climax.

Brown: sensitivity

This is a lovely book. It made me laugh, it made me cry, and it taught me lots I did not know about another country. You cannot ask much more of a novel.

MARY LOUDON

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

The marital agonies of the British Royal Family: Alexander Chancellor on Queen Caroline; Robert Blake looks back at the Empire; the trouble with making it new: the British Council's latest anthology

'There are many imitators but this is the genuine article'
The Times

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OUR GAME

'Highly recommended ...le Carré's reading is unsurpassable'
Spectator

THE NUMBER ONE BESTSELLER NOW IN PAPERBACK

THE NUMBER ONE BESTSELLER NOW ON AUDIO

RECORDINGS

NEW ON CD: Celine Dion overwrought; Gaillard's beguiling gab; Sibelius in the raw

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

■ THE FRAMES D.C.
Monument
ZTT/WEA 0630-13971★★
FRONTED by singer and chief songwriter Glen Hansard, the Frames D.C. have earned a loyal following in their native Ireland, thanks mainly to their live shows.

The Frames D.C.: for real

Monument, their debut single in Britain, is a churning rock track with a heavily syncopated bass line that has its provenance in the sound of the American grunge era rather than in the merry melodies of Britpop.

"I built a monument to every word that's passed between us," Hansard sings in a clear, hard voice that echoes the straining tones of Eddie Vedder, and like the Pearl Jam singer, Hansard sounds as if he means it.

Raw, rocky and unfashionably for real, this lot are undoubtedly going to be a force to be reckoned with.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

■ CELINE DION
Falling into You
Epic 483792★
CELINE DION is one of those performers who start at treble forte and then work up to a climax (see also Meat Loaf, Bonnie Tyler). True to form, this new album is a marathon of melodrama, which establishes a typically overwrought tone from the start with a thunderous Jim Steinman epic, *It's All Coming Back To Me Now*.

A small army of songwriters and producers, including Diane Warren, Jean Jacques Goldman and Aldo Nova, furnish her with a certain amount of musical variety — from the pop-reggae rhythm of *Make You Happy* to the slinky soul groove of *Dreamin' of You* — but the feverish pitch is unwavering.

The album's one and only theme is the love of a good man: how to find it, how to win it, how to keep it. "I will fight, I will bleed/I will lay down my life, if that's what you need," she vows in *If That's What It Takes*. "A mountain of stone, a door of steel can't stand in my way," she insists in *I Don't Know*.

Dion's problem lies not so much in the technical detail, which is faultless, as in her lack of credibility. All the songs are in the same emotional key, and the impression that she is going through the motions is reinforced by her choice of supper-club standards such as *River Deep, Mountain High* and *Natural Woman*.

A little Celine Dion goes a long way, and while there will be a lot of hits from this album, it is asking too much to swallow it all in one sitting.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ SLIM GAILLARD
Anytime, Anyplace, Anywhere!
Hep Jazz CD-2020★★
YES, it is ungainly in parts. And, yes, the journey through the byways of Britain on *Everything's OK in the UK* feels more like a world tour. Nevertheless this 1982 jam session in London has all the eccentric flair of one of Slim Gaillard's well-travelled zoot suits.

Inventor of "vout", the impenetrable jive vocabulary that earned him a walk-on part in Jack Kerouac's *On The Road*, Gaillard was to be rediscovered by the eager young *Absolute Beginners* audience in the period after this record was made. As master of ceremonies, overseeing guest appearances by Buddy Tate, Jay McShann and England's own Digby Fairweather, he spins his famous surreal patter on *How High the Moon*, strums a mean guitar and generally encourages everyone to follow his manic lead. Lurking behind the jester's mask is a resourceful singer who bends *Honeysuckle Rose* into shapes that Fats Waller would have admired.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ DONIZETTI
La Fille du régiment
Gruberova/Laghezza/van der Walt/Fourcade/Munich Radio Orchestra/ Panni
Nightingale NC070566-2★★
BEFORE the arrival of this Nightingale set, only one complete version of Donizetti's rousing military comedy remained in the catalogue, the Decca version with Sutherland and Pavarotti made almost 30 years ago.

Marie, regimental "daughter" and mascot, found abandoned on the battlefield as a baby, is a gift to any soprano ready to unbutton a bit. Donizetti announces her arrival with a snatch of off-stage coloratura, but thereafter she has the habit of interrupting every song with a rataplan in praise of Napoleon's 21st Grenadiers. Marie may turn out to be of noble birth for the sake of the plot, but she is tomboy through and through.

Sutherland gave a thigh-thwacking performance. Edita Gruberova shows similar zest. Her voice has a tendency to harden at times, but she has plenty of high spirits and the coloratura is faultless.

Deon van der Walt is Tonio, the Tyrolese who saves Marie from falling over a cliff, then joins the 21st to win her hand. Van der Walt does not flip out the multitude of top notes in the way Pavarotti did, but he gives a graceful performance, as does Philippe Fourcade as the French Sergeant, Sulpice, a properly saintly figure. Rosa Laghezza is distinctly unsaintly as the Marquise de Berkenfield, who turns out to be Marie's mum.

Marcello Panni draws lively playing from the Munich orchestra in this short score, which has no dud numbers and many familiar ones. How long before the 21st storms into a British theatre again?

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ SIBELIUS
Symphony No 5; En saga
Lahti Symphony Orchestra/ Vänskä
BIS CD-800★★
VOLUME 38 of the *Complete Sibelius* series from the Swedish label BIS offers world premiere recordings of two familiar works in unfamiliar versions. The Fifth Symphony received its first performance in December 1915, but the composer was not satisfied and a second version was prepared for the following December. Even so, the symphony took three more years to reach its final form.

The differences between the original version of 1915 (recorded here) and the final one of 1919 (that generally performed) are both startling and instructive. Originally the first movement was cast in two separate ones, and there are numerous other differences, of which the most obvious are the opening (no horn call) and the end (the hammerblows far less dramatic).

In every respect, the familiar, final version is preferable. Nevertheless, it is good to have the original version on disc — very competently performed by the Lahti Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vänskä.

Similarly, the original (1892) version of *En saga* is rawer in the elaboration of its material, yet that primitiveness is integral to the conception of the piece. New life for an invaluable musicological document.

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

■ BACH
Partita and Suites
Maria Joao Pires
DG 447 894-2★★★
MARIA JOAO PIRES'S piano playing is primarily for herself: we, the listeners, eavesdrop. So the keyboard suites of Bach, never intended for public performance, are just the thing for her.

The Praeludium of the great Partita No 1 in B flat trills itself into being at such an even, gentle pace that it sounds as if the music were always there, just waiting to drift into the earshot of the listener. Pires turns the Prelude of the English Suite No 3 in G minor into a full-blown Vivaldi-style concerto, solo and "orchestral" voices stamped out in bold, decisive forms. She delights in the rhythmic ambiguities of the following dance movements, with the Sarabande a slow, introverted meditation on its own harmonic language. The final French Suite No 2 in C minor recreates in lucid converse the simplicity born of considerable revision by Bach. Not to be missed.

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

NEW ON VIDEO: Chekhov down under; Kathy Bates under suspicion; pre-blacklist Polonsky

■ COUNTRY LIFE
High Fliers, 15, 1994
MICHAEL BLAKEMORE'S film — by turns charming, melancholy and boisterous — takes the plot of *Uncle Vanya* and plonks it down on an Australian farm after the First World War. Chekhov's ageing professor is now a London theatre critic (played by Blakemore himself), who returns to his homestead with a new, bored wife. Upheaval follows. Blakemore is not interested in Merchant-Ivory finesse, and some of his strokes are broad. But apart from Greta Scacchi's routine flirt, the actors carry the film easily from mood to mood. Available to rent.

■ DOLORES CLAIBORNE
ColumbiaTriStar, 18, 1995
TAYLOR HACKFORTH'S stylish version of Stephen King's novel about a wife and mother twice suspected of murder looks beyond questions of guilt or innocence to probe the characters' tortured lives, with images to match. But towering over the atmospheric visuals stands Kathy Bates's powerful performance as the hardbitten sourpuss, survivor of an abusive husband, who now stands accused of murdering the woman she keeps house for. Available to rent.

■ FORCE OF EVIL
Second Sight, PG, 1948
MESMERISING and brilliant thriller about New York racketeers, made by the short-lived Enterprise Studios, which was dedicated to the off-beat. Writer-director Abraham Polonsky took justified pains over the pungent, poetic dialogue. The gritty images have their own poetry, and there are memorable performances from John Garfield (a racketeer's lawyer with sullied ideals), Thomas Gomez and Beatrice Pearson. A few years later, the black cloud of the blacklist descended, and Polonsky did not direct again until 1969.

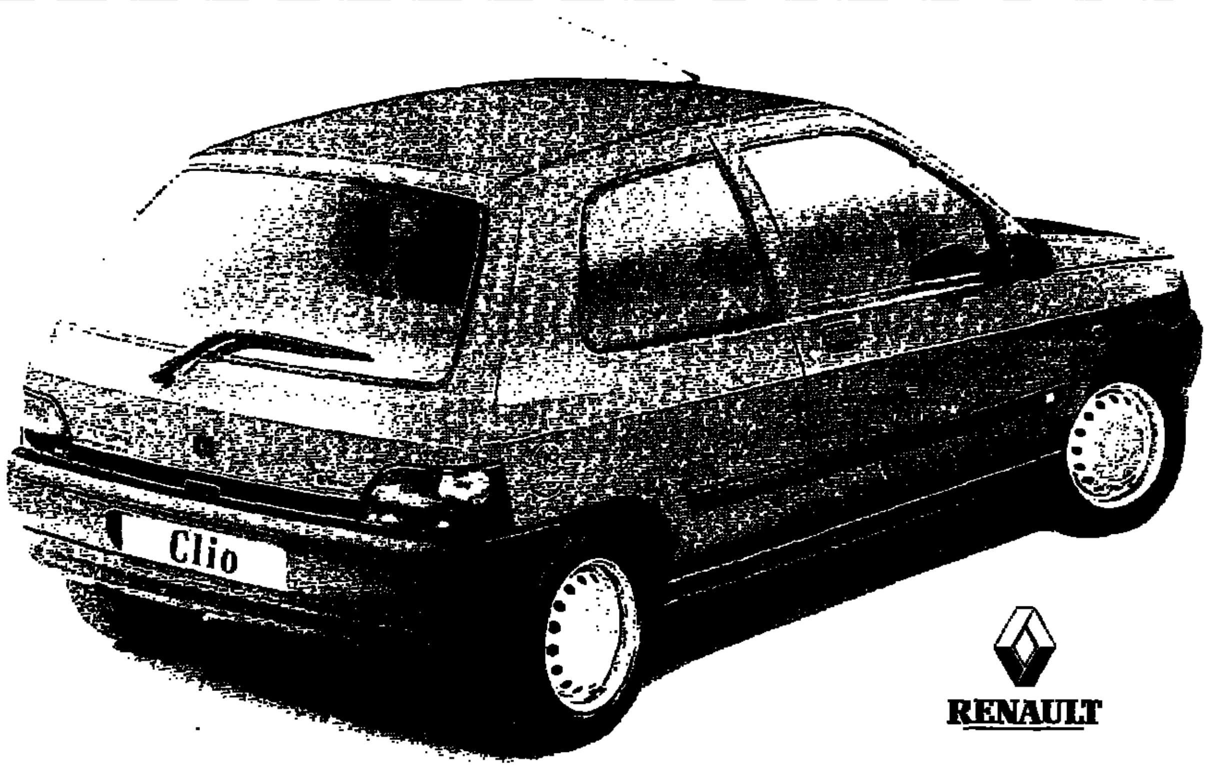
Outback blues: Greta Scacchi and Sam Neill star in *Country Life*, Chekhov transplanted to Australia

■ NOTHING BUT THE BEST
Lumiere, PG, 1964
HOMEGROWN comedies with fangs are not exactly ten a penny, but this one digs deep into the lifeblood of 1960s Britain, ruthlessly exploring the class system and the success itch. Alan Bates's estate-agent's clerk races to the top by hook, crook and murder after learning the ropes from Denholm Elliott. Director Clive Donner and scriptwriter Frederic Raphael ensure the satire is fast, barbed and, above all, funny. Colour photography by Nicolas Roeg.

■ THE YOUNG POISONER'S HANDBOOK
PolyGram, 15, 1995
ASSURED but depressing black comedy based on the true story of Graham Young, a north London schoolboy who subjects his family to experiments with toxic substances. Though Master Graham is bundled off to a hospital for the criminally insane, his poisonous career continues. So does the film: and any delight at the firm grip of director Benjamin Ross or Hugh O'Conor's performance slowly vanishes. Ross probably did not mean his first feature to be this nasty: but overkill has made it so. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN

THE TIMES HAS JOINED WITH RENAULT AND EMI TO HELP RAISE MONEY FOR TOMMY'S CAMPAIGN



RENAULT

Win a Renault Clio

RENAULT UK is linking up with *The Times* to offer all our readers the chance to win a fabulous Clio and 50 runners-up prizes of EMI's new compilation CD *Baby Love*, produced on behalf of Tommy's Campaign.

Renault has adopted Tommy's Campaign as its official charity in 1996 and the Clio RL Primo, worth £8,000, is being given to a lucky *Times* reader in our prize draw to demonstrate the car company's support for the charity.

The Clio RL has established itself as a car for the young in years and spirit. It is racy but safe, affordable yet with a touch of class. And it has a long list of features which make life more pleasant: internally adjustable door mirrors, a stereo radio cassette player and, more importantly, those which keep you safe and sound, such as side impact protection bars, seat belt pre-tensioners and lockable safety head restraints.

The Clio RL has easy handling, good roadholding and sure-fire braking. It also has low running costs with the bold good looks and flair generally associated with this marque. The Clio's colours are an attractive choice of: glacier white, cobalt blue, capsicum red, larch green, Corfu blue, Xerus grey and iceberg silver.

HOW TO ENTER

All you have to do is collect four of the six tokens from this week's *Times*. The overall winner and 50 runners-up will be chosen at random from all entries received by the closing date, Monday, March 25, 1996. Post your tokens to the address on the coupon below. No purchase is necessary and a token request address will be published later this week.

RENAULT CLIO PRIZE DRAW ENTRY FORM

I enclose four tokens from *The Times* and wish to enter the draw. Post to:
The Times/Renault Clio Prize Draw, 30 Bouverie Street London EC8B 4NG to arrive by March 25, 1996.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms .... First name .... PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN BLOCK CAPITALS
Surname ....
Address ....
....
Postcode .... Day Tel (inc STD code)............
Current main car: Make .... Model ....
Reg letter .... Expected replacement date for your car ....
Will your next car be New ☐ Used ☐
I would like more information on the Renault Clio ☐ Yes
I would like to test drive the Renault Clio ☐ Yes

Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)
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THE TIMES
RENAULT
TOKEN 1

A perfect gift for parents

Readers of *The Times* can support Tommy's Campaign, a national charity dedicated to the birth of healthy babies, by buying a new CD called *Baby Love*. It costs £12.99 and 80 per cent of the net profits are going to the charity.

The compilation is made up of timeless love songs which can convey the bond between a parent and child. There are 18 tracks including John Lennon's *Beautiful Boy*, Dire Straights, *Walk of Life*, Sinead O'Connor's *All Babies* and Mark Knopfler's Notting Hillbillies with *I Feel Like Going Home*.

Baby Love would make a perfect Mothering Sunday gift, or a special present for parents on the birth of a new baby. But equally it will appeal to anyone who wants to support a charity which helps babies to be born healthy and strong.

All the artists on the compilation have agreed to waive their royalties as their contribution to this popular cause and Sainsbury's and Savacentre are donating £1 from the sale of every CD and cassette in their 240 stores to the charity. *Baby Love* is also available at all Our Price and Virgin stores, WH Smith and Woolworths. It costs £12.99 rrp (a cassette is £8.99).

For more information about Tommy's Campaign, please call: 0171-620 2654.

Baby Love track listing

1. Chris Rea *Julia*
2. Whitney Houston *The Greatest Love of All*
3. John Lennon *Beautiful Boy*
4. Elton John *Blessed*
5. Simply Red *For Your Babies*
6. Diana Ross *Let's Make Every Moment Count*
7. Beverley Craven *Mollie's Song*
8. Paul McCartney *Once Upon a Long Ago*
9. Kate Bush *The Man with the Child in his Eyes*
10. The Notting Hillbillies *I Feel Like Going Home*
11. Pretenders *Kid*
12. Paul Weller *Moon on your Pyjamas*
13. The Police *Every Breath You Take*
14. World Party *All I Gave*
15. Sinead O'Connor *All Babies*
16. Robert Palmer *She Makes My Day*
17. Bryan Ferry *Is Your Love Strong Enough?*
18. Dire Straits *Walk of Life*

Help to save a baby

The birth of a baby can be one of life's most fulfilling and happy events. Yet, for an unacceptable number of parents, the experience can bring heartache.

In the UK 40,000 babies are born too soon or too small every year; one in four women suffer the trauma of a miscarriage and one in 150 babies are lost through stillbirth. These figures have remained relatively unchanged for the past 50 years.

Premature babies account for one in seven births. The more severely premature, often weighing no more than a bag of sugar, spend the first few weeks in an incubator, fighting for their lives. Sadly, some do not survive and others may suffer some permanent disability such as cerebral palsy or breathing problems.

There have been enormous advances in the last few years into the care of premature babies but there remains a pressing need to discover the causes of the problem in the first place.

Tommy's Campaign was set up in 1992 to raise money for research into this complex area. A wide range of projects are now being funded by the charity into the causes of prematurity, miscarriage and stillbirth. Lucilla Poston, of St Thomas's hospital, London, professor of fetal health for the Tommy's Campaign, leads a team of researchers who work in collaboration with other medical institutions nationwide.

Tommy's Campaign
Giving babies a better start

The money raised from the sale of *Baby Love* will help to ensure that Tommy's Campaign continues in its quest to bring an end to the suffering.

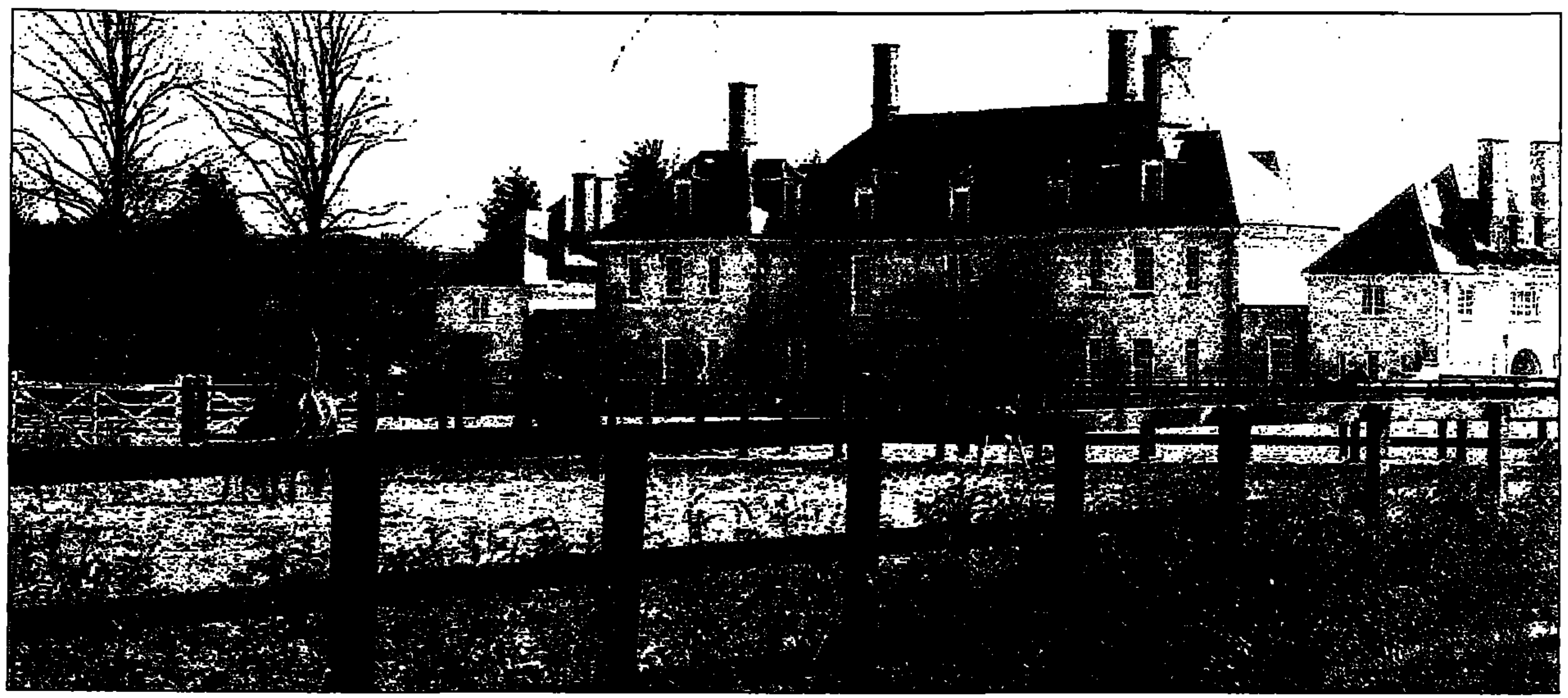
You can help to give all babies a better start in life by sending a donation to: Tommy's Campaign, London SE99 6RD. Or calling: 0171-620 2654. Registered charity No. 1001362

YOU CAN MAKE A DONATION TO TOMMY'S CAMPAIGN BY CREDIT CARD ON 0171-620 2654

هكذا من الأصل

Study the farm before picking a winner

A canter round studs on the market in Europe and beyond



Warren Park, at Newmarket, built in the style of a French château, is on sale for £3.8 million and combines the two yards of Warren Hill and Ashley Heath studs

Breeding horses is a rich man's game. It takes luck, as well as money and experience, to produce a horse that will win one of the classics and earn a fortune.

The bloodstock covering season runs from February to July, during which time a stallion can cover at least 40 to 50 mares. The fee for his services ranges from £500 to £25,000, depending on his race record and breeding background.

The secret of a good stud lies in the soil: free-draining limestone fed by its own spring water, with the right nutrients, especially calcium, produce prize-winning horses and foals. Add well-sheltered paddocks and you have an excellent breeding environment.

The most famous studs in this country are around Newmarket, where soil conditions are ideal. Other well-known areas include the Cotswolds and Yorkshire.

Expect to pay £2,500 to £4,000 an acre for developed stud land, plus the value of house and buildings, says Rupert Sweeting of Knight Frank. "You need four to five acres for each horse but there must be enough land to allow paddocks to recover," he says.

One of the most famous studs to come on the market in recent years is **Warren Park** in Newmarket, previously owned by Captain Marcos Lemos, who sold to Gerald Carroll about four years ago.

Warren Hill and Ashley Heath studs, brought together by Captain Lemos to form Warren Park, have produced winners of almost all the classics, including Julio Mariner, winner of the 1978 St Leger, and Pebbles, who won the 1984 1,000 Guineas before being sold to Sheikh Mohammed.

Warren Park is now being sold by the receivers through Knight Frank for £3.8 million and includes the nine-bedroom Warren Hill House, with two staff flats, indoor pool and tennis courts, surrounded by gardens and 300 acres of stud land with four yards. Currently run as one stud, it has the scope to work as two main yards.

Warren Hill has 16 loose boxes, foaling boxes and covering yard, workshop, offices and orangery. Ashley Heath includes a manager's house, seven cottages, two stallion boxes, foaling and loose boxes, covering yard and various administrative buildings.

Agents Jackson, Stops & Staff are selling **Swettenham Hall Estate** in Cheshire, on offer at £2 million. The Swettenham Stud originated here with well-known horses such as Gildoran, winner of the Ascot Gold Cup in 1984 and '85, owned by racing tycoon Robert Sangster, who sold the property to the present owner ten years ago. The 176-acre estate, no longer a stud, comprises an eight-bedroom, Grade II-listed house, farmhouse, cottage, pool, outbuildings and two stable blocks with 42 loose boxes.

A smaller stud, the **Manor House** at Ab Kettleby, near Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, is for sale at £390,000, through John D. Wood. The present owner, James Burridge, bred and reared Desert Orchid on the property. The five-bedroom, Grade II-listed house comes with nine loose boxes and 13.4 acres of gardens and paddocks.

The strong Irish flavour at next week's Cheltenham Festival is a reminder of the strength of horse-breeding in the Republic. The Curragh, near the famous racecourse west of Dublin, is sought-after and expensive, priced from £4,000 to £5,000 an acre for undeveloped stud land. County Tipperary also has free-draining limestone land from £3,000 an acre. Studs in these areas are in short supply, particularly at the top of the market. Elsewhere, a small stud can be had for under £200,000, but the majority sell for between £400,000 and £800,000.

About 53 miles from Dublin, on the east coast of County Wexford, **Borleagh Manor** is available for around £1 million through Jackson Stops McCabe. Its most famous horse was Hardy Canute, whose descendants include Shirley Heights, winner of the English and Irish Derbies in 1978. The price includes a seven-bedroom Georgian house in 160 acres of parkland with 70 acres of sheltered paddocks. It has its own stream, ornamental lake, 20 loose boxes, and two cottages.

In France, the Orne region of Normandy is prime horse-breeding country, with many famous studs, including the splendid Haras-du-Pin National Stud. There are plenty of studs for sale but few buyers, so most vendors will negotiate.

Prices start at £121,000, which will buy a stud in 24 acres with 19 loose boxes, various stable blocks, and a 19th-century "maison de maître", through Barbers.

Moving upmarket, **Le Haras du Gazon**, in 289 acres, between Argentan and Falaise, can be yours for just over £1 million, through Christopher Stephenson International. Once owned by the Comte de Montesson, it was sold in recent years to a Japanese family, who turned it into a combined stud and recreation area. Its most famous horse, Katko, has won the Grand Steeple de Paris three times.

This stud has a ten-bedroom, 18th-century manor house, stable yard with restaurant, conference area with 11 bedrooms, a cottage, 57 loose boxes, lunging ring, outdoor arena, tennis court and lake.

Under warmer skies, you could buy one of South Africa's most renowned stud farms — the **Aldora Stud** in KwaZulu, Natal — for £600,000, through Knight Frank. The mares, foals and yearlings are also available separately. Grade I winners bred here include Fast Break, Secret Rites and Muscovy.

The price includes 502 acres of prime land, manager's house, three secondary houses, 11 cottages, farm school, 100 loose boxes, four stallion boxes and foaling unit.

CHERYL TAYLOR

● *Barbers, 0171-221 0555; Christopher Stephenson International, 01672 521155; Knight Frank 0171-629 8171; Jackson, Stops & Staff 01244 328361; Jackson Stops McCabe 00 3 531 6771177; John D. Wood, 01865 311522.*

A home beside the turf

HORSE LOVERS would be in their element with one of the houses being built at the Mount Juliet Country Club, overlooking the River Nore in Co Kilkenny, the horse-breeding heart of the Irish Republic.

There are plans to build 61 luxury houses on the 1,400 acre Mount Juliet estate, which includes the Ballylinch Stud Farm. The stud has produced winners of all the Irish and English classics, including The Tetrarch, described as "the fastest horse in the history of the turf", who won seven classic races in England and Ireland in 1913. He subsequently sired a line of classic winners.

Residents may board mares at the stud, or they can join a bloodstock syndicate. The complex includes an equestrian centre and 16 miles of bridle paths for trekking.

Six sites have been sold, each costing £150,000, and three houses built. The three-quarter of an acre sites, in a mature woodland setting, back onto an 18-hole golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus. Properties must be built to specifications laid down by Mount Juliet, and the total cost for building a three to four-bedroom house, including land, will be £450,000 to £550,000.

● *Details: Patrick Hegarty, Mount Juliet Properties (00 3 53 5624455).*

Grand National lunch, Page 6

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Edwardes Square

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Freehold

Price Guide: £1,350,000

KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705

LONDON SW4
Clapham Common Northside

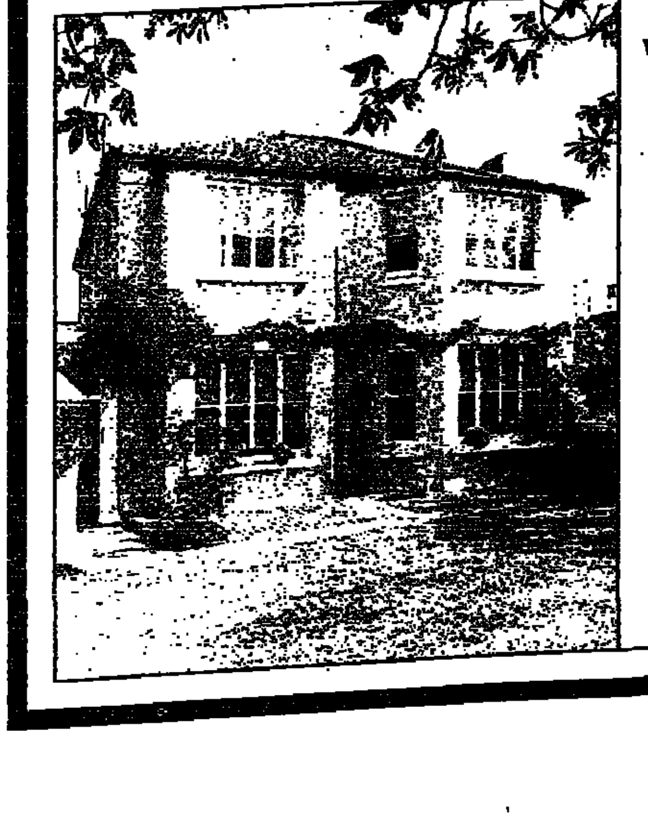
Set back behind a gravelled drive, an elegant house with flexible accommodation and lovely views over Clapham Common.

5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room, nursery kitchen, 2 reception rooms, large kitchen, self-contained flat. 27m (90ft) garden.

Freehold

Price Guide: £765,000

BATTERSEA: 0171-228 0174



LONDON SW19
Wimbledon Village

Circa 1860, a charming detached house with a self-contained cottage, in the heart of the village.

4 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms, cloakroom, 2 reception rooms, study, kitchen. Cottage with 2 bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room and kitchen. Courtyard garden, roof terrace, parking.

Freehold

£575,000

WIMBLEDON: 0181-944 7172

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KENT – Doddington Price Guide: £550,000

A fine listed house with a coach house and attractive gardens adjoining farmland. 5 beds, 4 baths, 3 secondary beds, 3 receps, conservatory, domestic offices. Coach house with kit, shower rm, games rm, billiards rm, garaging, stabling. Tennis ct, paddock. Just under 2.02 ha (5 acres).

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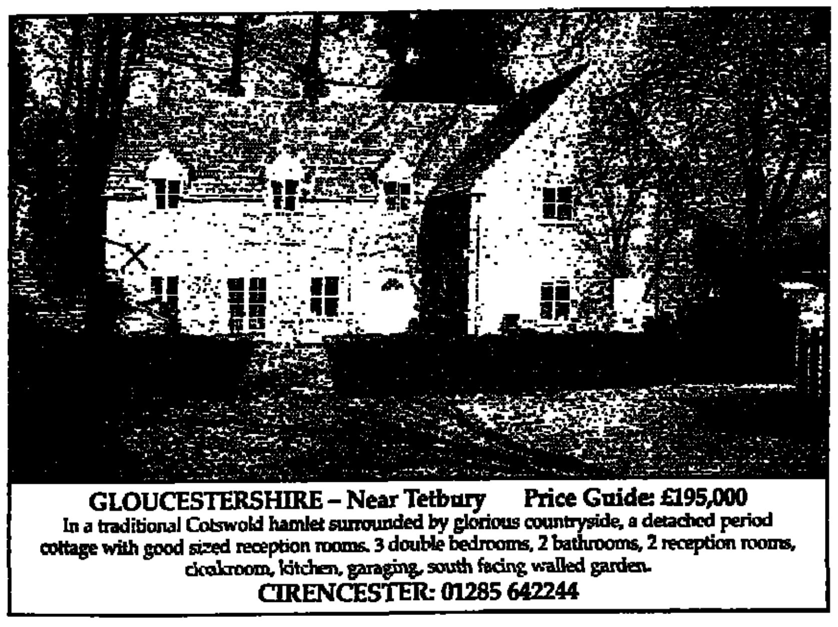


GLOUCESTERSHIRE – Near Tetbury Price Guide: £195,000

In a traditional Cotswold hamlet surrounded by glorious countryside, a detached period cottage with good sized reception rooms. 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, cloakroom, kitchen, garaging, south facing walled garden.

CIRENCESTER: 01285 642244

HAMPSHIRE
Sway

A pretty listed 17th century farmhouse, about one mile from the open forest. 3/4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 reception rooms, study/bed 4, kit, b'fast rm, double garage, stable block, garden and orchard. About 0.16 ha (0.4 acre).

Price Guide: £225,000

LYMINGTON: 01590 677233

HAMPSHIRE
Headley Village

Quietly situated near Headley Green, a newly refurbished early Victorian house with a detached s/c cottage. 3 dble beds, bath, 2 receps, kitchen with Aga, utility, clkrm, cellar. 1 bed cottage, garage block with studio/store above. Part walled garden. About 0.2 ha (0.5 acre).

Price Guide: £310,000

FARNHAM: 01252 737115

EAST SUSSEX
Crowborough

With superb views, a cottage of character in a rural position close to the Golf Course. 4/5 beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, kit, utility rm, garaging, garden, swimming pool. About 0.3 ha (0.75 acre).

JSA: Freeman Forman 01825 766636

Offers invited in excess of £350,000

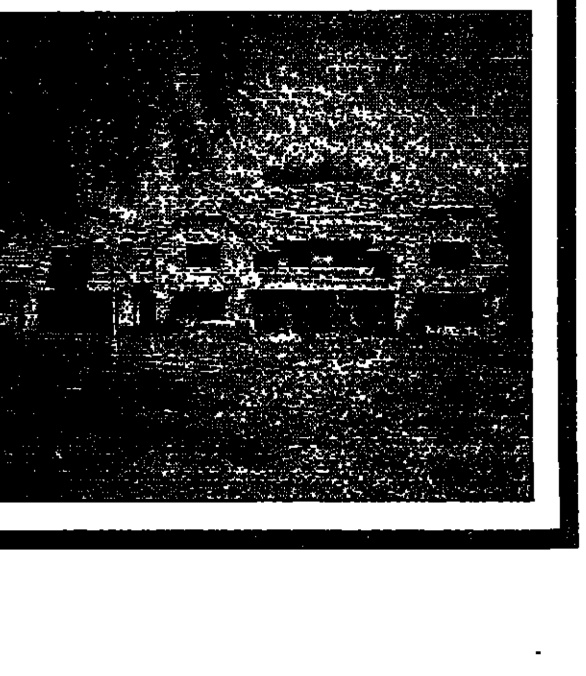
EAST GRINSTEAD: 01342 326326

OXFORD
Harcourt Hill

In about 4.45 ha (11 acres), a well appointed house with views over the Oxford spires and Chilterns. 5 beds, 2 dressing rms, 4 baths, shower rm, 4 receps, extensive domestic offices, gymnasium/office. S/c annexe with bed, bath, recep, kit. Dble garage.

Price Guide: £600,000

OXFORD: 01865 311522



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Sale fails to blossom in daffodil country

Ronald Faux on why it takes more than a fine view to sell a house on Ullswater

Wordsworth's daffodils are within nodding distance and the view from the drawing room is uninterrupted across Ullswater to the Cumbrian fells. Yet Hawk How, a house that mirrors late-Victorian affluence and gentility, and a rarity among desirable Lakeland properties, has yet to find a buyer after nearly ten months.

Kyle Blue, of the estate agents Penrith Farmers & Kidds, remains optimistic, despite signals that interest at the top end of the property market in the rural northwest is subdued. He says that Hawk How is at the apex of Lakeland properties, with an initial asking price approaching £500,000, which may seem modest compared with substantial country properties elsewhere in Britain.

The house came on to the market in May last year and it would not have been unusual, he says, for a marketing campaign to have lasted several months before a sale was achieved. However, after nearly ten months, the house is still unsold.

Hawk How was built at the turn of the century for a northeast shipping magnate when it was fashionable for exceptionally rich industrialists to provide themselves with country retreats. The house is in three and a half acres of wooded grounds and gardens through which a fellside beck cascades in a series of waterfalls. The house is typical of the period, restrained in its solid "rustic traditional" style, with walls and roof of Buttermere green slate that blend with the craggy countryside around.

Building restrictions in the Lake District National Park ensure that such properties have a scarcity value. It is impossible to add to the number of substantial homes set in fine grounds with commanding views. The house has four bedrooms, two bathrooms and a separate three-bedroom cottage. The sales campaign was directed towards the national and international market, and has attracted interest from clients, but no sale. One potential buyer is stuck in a chain and cannot proceed further.

An African tribal chief who claimed to have $9.5 million (about £6.2 million) to spend on a country property in Britain seemed keen, and Mr Blue says: "The client insisted that Hawk How was exactly the property he was seeking. However, negotiations went on for five weeks but became difficult when the client demanded that a representative of the selling agent should go to Africa to assist with the currency transfer. We didn't send anybody and negotiations ceased.

"We did wonder how the client would enjoy the Cumbrian climate, and it seemed to us that there are some overseas buyers more interested in transferring large amounts of foreign currency from their own country than acquiring estates in Cumbria," Mr Blue says.

Hawk How was inherited by the present owners who are under no pressure to sell, but the property is in that misty area at the top end of the market where tens of thousands of pounds may separate the asking price and what is realisable. The sellers have dropped the price to £395,000, which represents excellent value for such a property.

Despite a drop of about £100,000 on the initial price, this house on Ullswater remains unsold

Pending a sale, the owners are renting out the house for holiday lets.

However desirable the property might seem, there are some complications of living half way along Ullswater in countryside whose very beauty makes it a honeypot for tourists. It would be a lengthy commute to any of the main Cumbrian towns, restricting the market to retired executives or those able to work by computer from home, placing them in a grand league of tele-cottagers. Also, beauty being in the beholder's eye, their landscape taste would have to be more Landseer than Constable, and rain should never be allowed to dampen their enthusiasm for country living. The wettest place in Britain lies only two valleys away. Even so, rental from the cottage in the grounds of Hawk How as a holiday home could be expected to be nearly £12,000 a year and Mr Blue reckons that, with well-aimed marketing, rental from the house and cottage would together yield more than £25,000 a year.

"Taking a longer term view that such properties are rare, and will remain so because National Park rules restrict further development, Hawk How could become attractive either as a home or as an investment," he says.

"It is not unusual for properties in this sector to be still for sale after six or seven months," Mr Blue says. "Sellers who can batten down the hatches in preparation for a long campaign do so, and their position is stronger if they are not under pressure to drop substantially below the asking price.

"Until last year, the upper end of the market was moving freely, with good demand and sales relatively easy to achieve. Things have changed, even though the recession in house sales is supposed to be easing," he says.

Cash buyers, as ever, hold the strongest hand to negotiate a deal and, with expensive properties, have won substantial discounts. But buyers in the Cumbrian market are proving to be selective and keen to test the vendor's eagerness to sell, so that negotiations can take on the air of a poker game.

A number of sales in the £300,000 region have been achieved this year but took longer than in years past. With the property market coming out of its winter hibernation, sellers, like Wordsworth's daffodils, are hoping for a sunny breakthrough.

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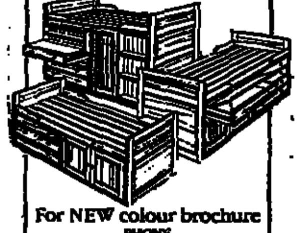

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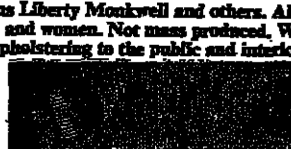

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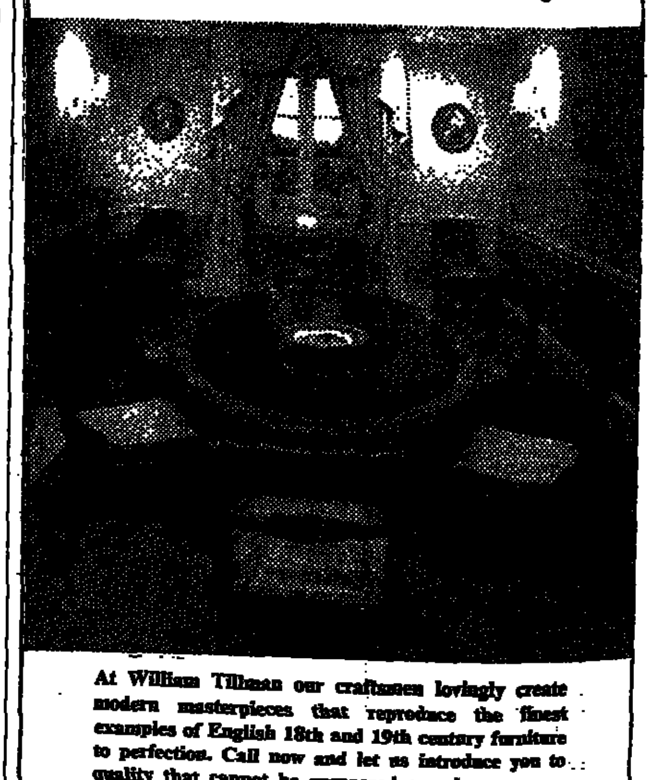

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Bargains galore at the flick of a page

Big discounts on brand-name goods are available — if you know where to look

DAVID HOWELLS

Leather ankle-boot trainers for children, £12 from Purple Fish's warehouse shop in Stroud, Gloucestershire, one of hundreds of entries in *The Good Deal Directory 1996*

Shoppers who like their discounts guaranteed should find plenty to interest them in *The Good Deal Directory 1996*. It contains 608 pages of shops, from north London to south Wirral, selling everything from last season's designer clothes to restored cast-iron baths, at up to 70 per cent off normal prices.

The book, compiled by Noelle Walsh, lists factory and reject chain stores as well as individually owned high street and second-hand shops. It gives details of the best times of year to visit, where appointments are necessary and whether a mail order service is available.

Open the book at page 209 for Big and Tall, High & Mighty's discount shop in Winchester, Hampshire (01962 842685), selling outfits from the nationwide chain for larger or longer men. The stock is previous season, with a king size range for 60in waists selling at about 50 per cent below normal prices; wool mixture suits are down from £199 to £75.

Flick back to page 23 for a mixed season selection of second-hand, couture evening and day wear, sold by appointment in north London by Sheila Warren-Hill (0181-348 8282). Labels include Jasper Conran, Yves St Laurent and Escada. Try on a black velvet Place Vendôme suit with red beading, sold initially for £4,000, now £350; a £200 black Versace body and jacket originally £2,000; or a Place Vendôme slinky black dress at £350.

For designer jewellery, page 33 lists Steinberg & Tolkein (0171-376 3660) in the King's Road, west London, which stocks original 1920s to 1950s baubles from sources such as Chanel and Trifari. A collection of butterfly brooches which belonged to Lana Turner are expected to fetch between £40 and £200 each. A rare dragon jewellery set by the Californian maker Har is for sale for £5,000.

Scent to You on page 43, with branches in Surrey, Berkshire and Aberdeen (for branches, 0181-974 6231) and with a mail order service, sells designer perfumes at some of the cheapest prices around. John Paul Gaultier's Vendetta 100ml eau de toilette is reduced from £49.50 to £14.50; Sunflowers by Elizabeth Arden sells for £19.99 (recommended price £27.50).

Page 78 offers Cameo of Cowes, Isle of Wight (01983 297907), where you can browse through its stock of unclaimed clothes, umbrellas, jewellery, purses, wigs and make-up from British Airways, London Transport and the Royal Mail.

The Uncollected Dry Cleaning Company, in Gateshead (0191-460 3195) and Newcastle upon Tyne (0191-233 0386), sells undamaged and unclaimed clothes such as Burberry men's and women's raincoats for £10. It recently had a size 14 Karl Lagerfeld two-piece evening outfit for £39. Current stock includes a white and navy Jean Paul Gaultier man's suit for £35 and Yves Saint Laurent trousers for £4.95. See page 161.

Dolls' clothes from Mrs Pickering's (01692 670407) just outside Great Yarmouth (page 341) are guaranteed by the owner "not to fall to bits straight away", and are available to fit popular dolls such as Tiny Tears, Barbie, Sindy and Action Man. Prices from 40p for a Barbie skirt to £3 for the wedding dress. Special outfits can be made on request. Mail order only.

Also for younger family members is Cuddles Nursery Hire in Northampton (01604 642629), which hires out car seats, travel cots, high chairs and pushchairs, from £7.50 for a weekend (page 351). Other nursery hire shops are listed, some offering delivery services.

Page 308 is devoted to the five branches of Nippers (for branches, 01732 832253) selling low cost, end-of-the-range prams, cots, pushchairs, car seats, outdoor play equipment and toys. The company operates from converted barns and farms, and children can visit the animals while parents browse. Familiar names include Britax, Maclaren and Fisher Price. Some prams are reduced from £359.99 to £269.99.

Purple Fish (01453 882820) in Stroud, Gloucestershire, on page 334, is a warehouse shop selling Spanish-made shoes, mainly leather, up to an adult size 8. In the shop, leather ankle-boot trainers for children are £12 and trendy clogs £10. A mail order catalogue is available.

Lovers of old-fashioned turntable record players will enjoy discovering Audio Gold in north London (0181-341 9007) on page 448 — one of the few places in the capital that still stocks a good range. Repairs on old models cost from £25, and the shop keeps a stock of 40 styluses for 1970s record players, costing £5. More unusual needles can be provided within a week.

The Water Monopoly in north-west London (0171-624 2636), on page 467, sells fully or part restored freestanding cast-iron baths at prices from £800 to £12,000. Basins range from £250 to £2,500, and lavatories £100 to £1,000. A reproduction accessory line, including soap dishes and flannel hooks, cost £25 upwards and are available by mail order. The shop can arrange delivery countrywide and overseas.

So, whatever it was you wished you had bought before the shop sold out, you might find it here.

JENNAI COX

Shopping guides at a glance

☐ To obtain a copy of *The Good Deal Directory 1996* send a cheque or postal order for £9.99 made payable to The Value for Money Company Limited to: The Good Deal Directory, PO Box 4, Lechlade, Glos GL7 3YB (or telephone 01367 860016, giving Visa or Access card details).

☐ Other guides compiled by Noelle Walsh: *Baby on a Budget* (Macmillan, £3.99, available from above address). *Wonderful Weddings that Don't Cost a Fortune* (Macmillan, £4.99, available from bookshops). *The Good Mail Order Guide* (to be published this month by Macmillan, £9.99, available from bookshops). The guide lists more than 1,200 mail order catalogue companies, according to product. Items available include button covers, dog cushions, flowers or tapestry tools. There is also an index at the back where companies can be looked up by name. *The Factory Shopping and Sightseeing Guide to the UK* (to be published next month by the Good Deal Directory Company Ltd, £3.99, available from the address above left) is the place to find value-for-money, brand-named items such as Royal Doulton, Barbour and Wedgwood, while sampling a taste of history and culture. It lists 1,600 factory shops, divided into nine regions, each with its own map, a description of local tourist sites and details of nearby factory shops.

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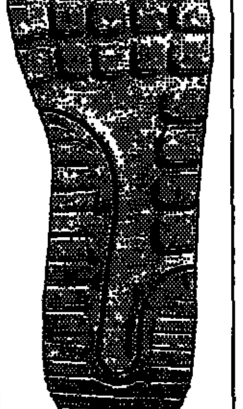

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COLLECTING

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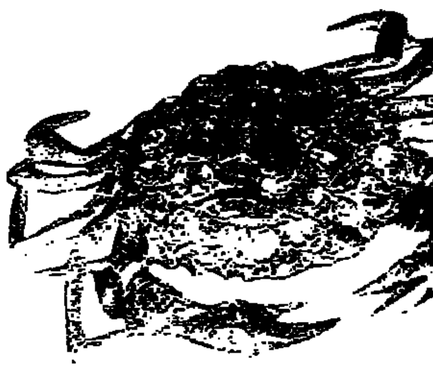
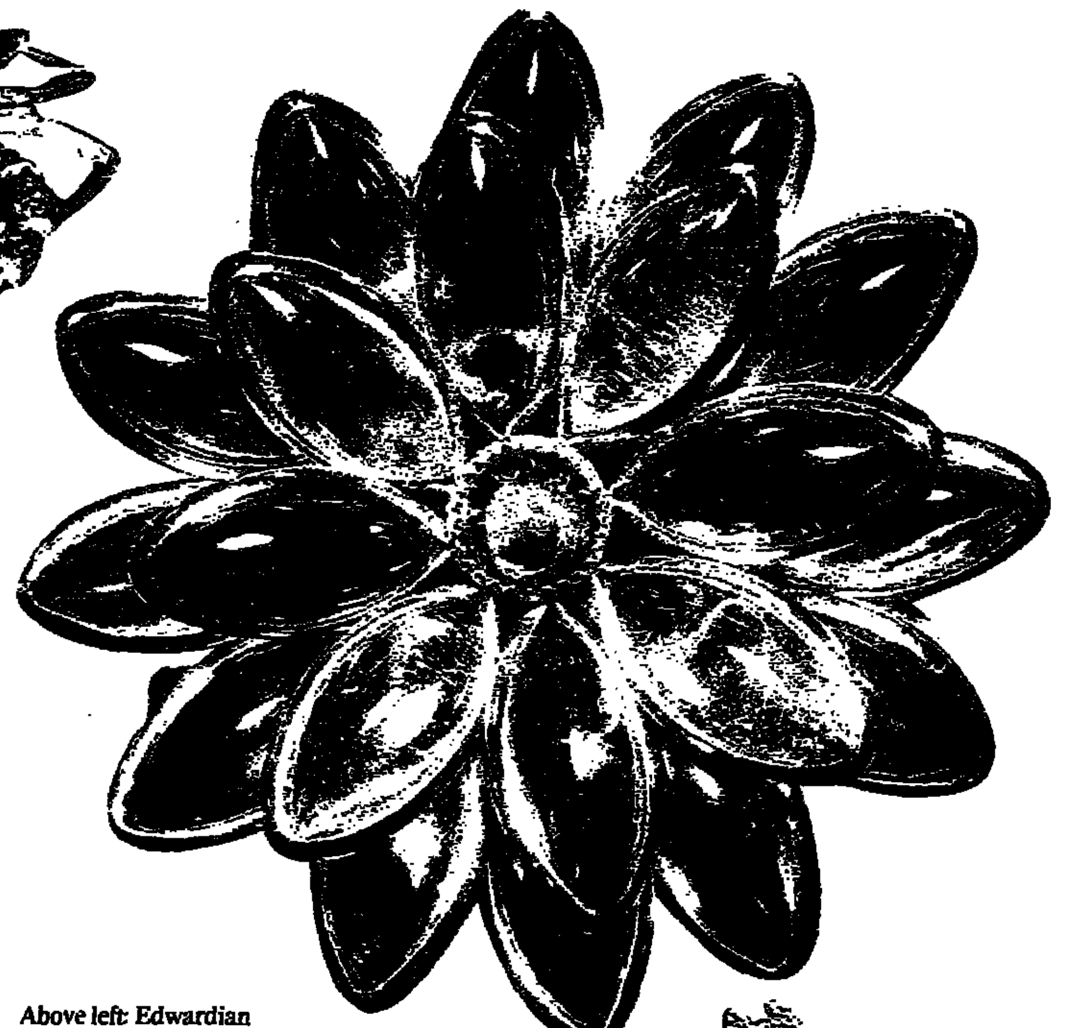




Above left: Edwardian crab brooch. Above: American 1950s flower brooch with blue-grey crystal petals, £120

For more than 200 years, diamanté has been captivating connoisseurs, from 18th-century fashion followers to 20th-century collectors. One such collector is Verity Urquhart, who started buying period paste 15 years ago. She already owned a small collection of antique jewellery, concentrating on early Roman rings, but when her husband, an orthopaedic surgeon, retired she knew she would have less money to spend.

Rather than give up her hobby, she switched to collecting paste, scouring the auction rooms, going to pre-sale viewings where she can handle the jewellery, visiting street markets and gleaning information from specialist dealers. She learnt about quality, rarity, terminology, dates and prices. She reads auction catalogues avidly, trying to spot the sleepers, goes to just about every antiques fair she can find and never misses her regular round of London's dealers, who look out for pieces for her.

For Mrs Urquhart, one of the attractions of collecting paste is the variety of periods and styles; each has its own charm. "I'm not very fond of diamonds," she says. "I prefer paste."

Mrs Urquhart looks out for 18th-century treasures, the connoisseur's items, with their fine proportions, workmanship and immaculately shaped, fitted and foiled lead-crystal stones, but she is equally thrilled by a quirky Victorian sentimental token or an elegant Edwardian shoe buckle or choker — or even a Hollywood-style brooch from the 1950s.

Verity Urquhart with an Edwardian choker, £60

"I like to think I can appreciate the qualities of jewellery from any period," she says. Her well-chosen and eclectic collection, which she wears with enjoyment, covers the whole spectrum. They include a set of Elizabethan aglets or dress ornaments (£50 each), an Art Nouveau enamel and marcasite bird brooch, a geometric Art Deco necklace and an American 1950s flower brooch with misty blue-grey crystal petals, made by Trifari, the world leader in the market at the time. She bought the brooch three years ago from Madeleine Popper, a dealer in Grays Antique Market, central London, for £120.

"I always go for bargains, and there's usually something interesting and beautiful to be found for £50-£100, while a prize treasure, such as a very good necklace, will only cost about £300-£400." Mrs Urquhart is clearly dedicated to the excitement of the hunt. A particular favourite is a delicate Edwardian choker in fine openwork found at Bonhams, the auctioneers, for £60.

Among the buckles in Mrs Urquhart's collection, which she threads on to a scarf, is a handsome late-Victorian pair set with emerald and white pastes which she recently bought for £40.

Then, of course, there are the "must-haves". "My rule is that if I think about something for a week or more, then I have to have it," she says. One of these is a tiny Victorian lovebird brooch, its miniature wings outstretched as it swoops to deliver an olive branch or possibly a sprig of forget-me-not, the symbol of true love. It is made of gold set with blue stones in Vauxhall glass — a kind of English mirrored paste named after the Vauxhall glassworks — for which she paid £100. This was discovered at Lowther Antiques in the Portobello Road, west London.

A spectacular Edwardian crab brooch of silver gilt, set with paste grass-green demantoid garnets, the favourite stone of the period, was bought from Sandra Cronanin the Burlington Arcade, central London. It illustrates the Edwardian love of whimsy.

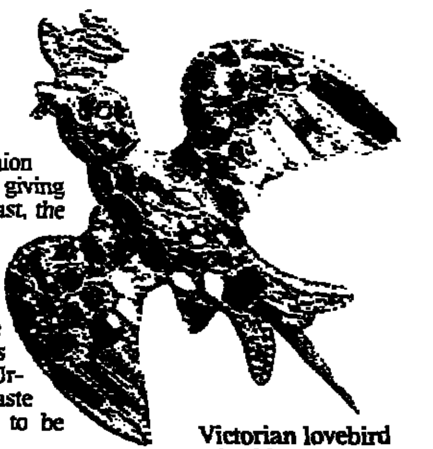
Since early lead-crystal gems were not subject to the limitations in cost and quality of the real thing, they could be more adventurous, luxurious and flamboyant. It was always a case of challenging nature with "anything you can do, we can do better", an attitude that perfectly suited, for example, the 18th century, when the new paste jewels, pioneered by a young jeweller named Stras, took Parisian society by storm.

The colours of *faux* gems are an important part of the attraction for Mrs Urquhart: she likes the soft colours and sheen of old paste. A pair of Regency bracelets, which can join to make a necklace, are set with an unusual combination of imitation banded agates alternated with faceted, paste, lemon-yellow chrysoberyls. It is interesting, too, that such care should be taken to imitate relatively inexpensive stones.

Mrs Urquhart recommends paste as an excellent way into antique jewellery. It's decorative, fun and wearable, although often neglected, underpriced and misunderstood. And it is far from being just a poor relation of the real thing; while the craftsmanship and ingenuity of design delights collectors such as Mrs Urquhart, antique and period costume jewels also reflect those whims of fashion that real gems cannot satisfy, giving the buyer a glimpse of the past, the personality of the wearer and the imagination of the maker.

Another advantage for collectors, especially beginners, is that antique or period paste is unlikely to be reproduced as fakes today, though Mrs Urquhart once bought some paste ear-rings which turned out to be diamonds.

Mrs Urquhart's advice to new collectors is: "Get your eye in first, gather a bit of knowledge. Find somebody to introduce you to the world and, most importantly, befriend a dealer."



Victorian lovebird with blue stones, £100

Her latest find is a Georgian buckle and a 1950s bracelet. As she left one antique shop recently, she tried to persuade the owner to sell the ring he was wearing. "He wouldn't, of course, but he has agreed to leave it to me in his will."

VIVIENNE BECKER

SALEROOM

☐ Anglers can stock up on antique tackle today at **Nock Deighton**, auctioneers in Bridgnorth, Shropshire. Examples include a fine and rare Hardy 1896 all-brass reel rod at £250 to £350. A leather-on-oak tackle case, with green baize-lined lid, by the Yorkshire maker William Dobson is £300 to £500.

☐ About 500 mantelpiece adornments come up at the **Louis Taylor** Doulton and Beswick-ware auction on Monday. The sale, at Stoke-on-Trent, includes Beatrix Potter's Pigling Bland at £40 to £60, and Samuel Whiskers at £60 to £90.

☐ The only known portrait of the Duke of Wellington in precise profile to the left comes up at **Christie's** on Monday. Fashioned in Sèvres porcelain in 1815, the tiny oval plaque is estimated at £6,000 to £8,000.

☐ The vintage film-poster auction at **Christie's South Kensington** on Tuesday includes a spectacular section devoted to horror. One highlight is a rare poster for the 1936 film *The Invisible Ray*, featuring Boris Karloff. Estimate: £10,000 to £15,000.

☐ The best find from the BBC1 *Antiques Road Show* this season is for sale at **Bonhams'** watercolour auction on Wednesday. A miniature image, *Adam and Eve at the Fall*, by the 19th-century artist George Richmond, it is valued at £50,000 to £80,000. The sale also offers some big names at reasonable prices, including a Gainsborough landscape (£5,000 to £8,000) and a John Sell Cotman (£300 to £400).

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

● *Nock Deighton, the Saleroom Centre, Bridgnorth, Shropshire (01746 762666). Louis Taylor, Britannia House, 10 Town Road, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire (01782 214111). Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (0171-839 9060). Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 (0171-581 7611). Bonhams, Montpellier Street, W7 (0171-393 3900).*

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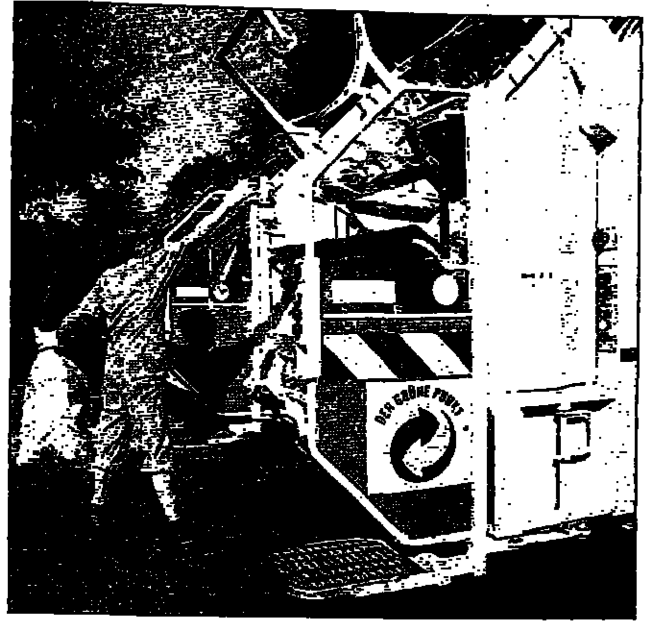
Only one in three of us recycles our rubbish. What a waste, says **Tony Kelly**

Why are Britons so bad at recycling?



Waste collection in Germany: the laws on recycling are tough

Be honest. What will you do with this newspaper when you have finished reading it? Shove it in the dustbin or put it to one side in a special newspaper box? And what will happen to that empty bottle of cabernet after your Sunday lunch?

If you're planning to visit a paper or a bottle bank, you are in a minority. Only about one in three people regularly recycles rubbish and overall the recycling of domestic waste in Britain hovers miserably around the 5 per cent mark, against a government target of 25 per cent (and a figure of 30 per cent in Germany).

It's not as if it's difficult: many supermarkets provide facilities. So why are we so bad at recycling?

Perhaps it is the suspicion that we will be wasting our time. Even those who sort paper from plastic, Coke cans from champagne corks (yes, even these can be recycled) must sometimes wonder whether it is worthwhile. Stories of paper mountains dumped into landfills, even during a crisis in the world paper market, only feed suspicions.

Recycling makes us feel good, but does it do any good? What happens to our rubbish after we have lugged it to the bank?

A £6 million, solar-powered, state-of-the-art recycling centre at Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, provides some answers. Huge mounds of paper and cardboard are sorted and crushed before being packed into bales and taken off to paper mills. Steel and aluminium cans are sorted mechanically and by hand, crushed and sent to the mills for reuse. Plastic bottles are granulated or turned into flakes, washed and sent off for remoulding.

'This isn't Germany or Japan, where people are ostracised for creating waste'

"We don't take anything we haven't got a market for," says Jill King, the recycling officer for Milton Keynes council. "That's the first principle of recycling: you can't just collect stuff and then think afterwards about what to do with it." This is what happened in Germany in the early 1990s, when recycling rose faster than demand and foreign markets were flooded with cheap recycled material.

"We are in the business of providing quality raw materials for industry," Mrs King says. It just happens to be environmentally friendly as well.

Milton Keynes was the first local authority to introduce a door-to-door recycling collection scheme, in 1992. Each household is offered two boxes — a red one for paper, textiles and cardboard, and a blue one for plastic, glass, foil and tins. Both boxes are collected weekly. Two-thirds of the city's households take part and the proportion of waste recycled has risen to 25 per cent.

But don't some people make mistakes and put things in the wrong box? "About 2½ per cent of what comes in is rejected, mostly labels and bottle tops," Mrs King says. "That's much lower than the rate for paper and bottle banks, where people dump anything from dead birds to dirty needles."

ADRIAN BROOKS

Martin Heaton, operations manager at the Milton Keynes recycling centre, amid tonnes of baled cans

Yet such a scheme as this must have limits. "I think we've almost reached saturation point," says Mrs King. "Sixty per cent of the paper going into houses in Milton Keynes is coming back. There will always be a minority who are reluctant to recycle, and if you try to force them it won't work. This isn't Germany or Japan, where people are ostracised for creating waste."

Japan, however, is looking for new ideas on recycling and sent two planners to meet Mrs King, who showed me a pile of presents they left — wrapped in layers of environmentally unfriendly packaging.

It's not only foreigners who come to learn at Milton Keynes; there are tours for the public and a school visit each day. Children look at products created from local waste — cat litters out of newspapers, fleece lining out of drinks bottles — and return home to educate their parents.

The city's scheme is starting to be copied elsewhere in Britain. In Bath it is run as a partnership between the city council and Avon Friends of the Earth. An FoE survey in 1992 found that most people approve of recycling household waste and are willing to do it, but don't. The evidence from Bath and Milton Keynes suggests that if you make it user-friendly enough, they do.

So what else can be done to encourage recycling? The Chancellor has announced a landfill tax, to be introduced in October, which should provide an incentive for local authorities to increase their recycling rates. Then there is pressure on industry not to produce the waste in the first place — as in Germany and Denmark, where businesses must pay for the disposal or recycling of all packaging.

One controversial suggestion is that consumers should be hit where it hurts — in the pocket. In Germany and some states of America, rubbish is sorted into different coloured boxes, with a black box for non-recyclables which attracts a collection charge. This would be illegal in Britain, where councils are required to provide a free refuse collection service. "It wouldn't work anyway," Ms King says. "People would dump rubbish on their neighbours, throw it into hedges or just cheat by putting rubbish in their recycling box."

Perhaps. But when each household contributes a tonne of rubbish to landfill sites every year it is clear that something has to be done.

Sweden recycles 86 per cent of its aluminium cans: in Britain it is barely 20 per cent. With glass, Britain (30 per cent) comes bottom in Europe, behind Greece and Turkey — though this ignores the benefits of the doorstep milk service, now in decline.

Perhaps the model to follow is that of the Third World, where recycling is an economic fact of life. At Milton Keynes there is a display of the typical contents of a British dustbin, with a much smaller one from Ghana. There is also a collection of everyday Ghanaian goods: nutmeg graters bashed out of old milk cans, sandals made from tyres, drinking bowls fashioned from gourds. Recycling at its most basic.

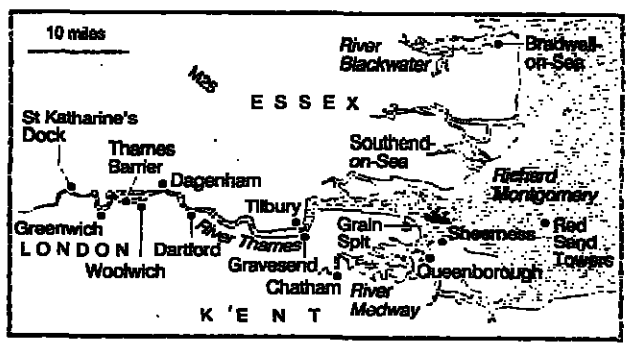
This sort of approach has been adopted by Wye Cycle, a waste-reduction scheme organised by the village of Wye, near Ashford, Kent. "We try to prevent waste being produced in the first place, rather than running round collecting it," says Richard Boden, the co-ordinator. "We think it is better to refill plastic bottles than to send them to Cheshire to be turned into garden furniture."

Vegetables are delivered, unpackaged, from local farms; retailers buy detergent in bulk and swap empty bottles for full ones. Compost is created from local waste and returned to people in the village. Some households have cut their waste by as much as 90 per cent, many by about half.

Perhaps this is the way forward. "Reduce, re-use, recycle", goes the green slogan, with recycling the option of last resort. Sometimes it is the only option. But as you hear your bottles being smashed at the bottom of the bottle bank, don't you ever wonder why they can't simply be washed up and used again?

● *The Milton Keynes Recycling Facility has public tours every Wednesday at 2.30pm: £2, children £1. There is an Open Day on Saturday, March 23 at 2pm (details, 01908 225000). Information on local recycling and waste reduction schemes, from Wasteline, 0171-248 0242.*

Battered on a windswept Thames



Sailing

The 5.55am shipping forecast spoke of "gales in all areas", with a possible Force 9 in Thames. But after a wild night on a mooring at Queenborough, Kent, all we aimed to do was sail up the Thames into the heart of London, berthing in St Katharine's Dock by Tower Bridge.

Although we would be sailing the 35 or so miles into the teeth of the southwesterly gale, most of it would be under engine and we would have the tide to propel us along the ever-narrowing twists and turns of the lower reaches of the river.

We had set off the day before in *Nutcracker*, my 35ft Dutch-built cutter, from Bradwell-on-Sea in Essex. Twenty-four hours later, as the wind rocked us backwards and forwards, my crew, Mike McCarthy, and I slipped the mooring, unfurled the jib and sailed off on a reach out of Queenborough into the mouth of the Medway, passing the docks at Sheerness and the giant Grain power station to our left.

To start with, we headed east to avoid the Grain Spit. The seaward end is marked by the wreck of the *Richard Montgomery*, an ammunition ship which ran aground with 7,000 tons of explosive on board in 1944. The ship still has at least half its cargo inside it and is marked by a series of yellow buoys. Parts of the superstructure are visible above the water. The most impressive are the offshore gun platforms built to hit German bombers using the river to navigate to London's East End.

Queenborough to Tower Bridge should take between five and six hours with the tide under you. We sailed for the first few hours, punching the tide as far as Gravesend Reach. Here we gave up short-tacking in between large ships making their way to and from Tilbury and started the engine. Even on that relatively wide part of the river sailing was frustrating, with much going about and *Nutcracker* falling away badly on one side with the adverse current.

There was also the difficulty of judging passing ships going at speed, which sometimes forced us to lurk in the shallows to avoid any possibility of getting in their way in mid-channel. High up on the bridge, several skippers waved in an appreciative thanks as they rumbled by.

Gravesend, like other riverside towns, looked grey and uninviting in the squally winter weather. Here the hail that blew into our faces was so sharp that we had to shield our eyes to see over the bow.

After the cranes and derricks of Tilbury, the river takes you under the Queen Elizabeth II road bridge, which carries the M25 over the Thames, 80 metres above the water. Under us the traffic of the Dartford Tunnel passed unheard as we bounced along with the increasing current.

Then came a memorable approach to the Thames Barrier, whose pillars look like a medieval battlement bestriding the river, with the towers of the City of London silhouetted behind them. Large notices instruct you to notify Woolwich Radio on VHF Ch 14 of your approach and you are then told which span of the structure to sail through. Once we reached the fashionable Docklands developments it was not only tugs pulling barge-loads of rubbish downstream that we had to avoid but pleasure craft and sight-seeing boats.

Happily, however, we had picked up so much speed with the tide that we ended up outside St Katharine's yacht basin an hour early, and the storms of the previous night seemed long ago.

"It was eventful," reflected a weary, cold Mike. "But next time we go in the summer."

EDWARD GORMAN

Travel, page 20

Nutcracker preparing to dock at St Katharine's

NEXT WEEK: preparing your boat after winter

Hawk loses a thorny battle

Feather report

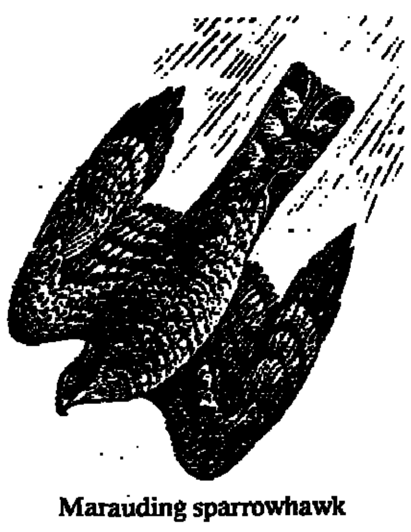
I WAS wandering through some fields the other day when I suddenly heard a loud, shrilling cry of fear coming from a distant clump of hawthorn bushes. I swept the field-glasses round and found a struggle going on in one of them. A dark brown, female sparrowhawk was spreadeagled, half upside-down, deep in the bush, and suspended below her was a redwing, completely upside down, one wing dangling. I could see the broad blaze of crimson across the redwing's armpit, and its gleaming white underbelly.

The birds were completely entangled in the thorns. The hawk evidently had a light hold on the redwing with one of its talons, and the victim could not break free. At the same time, the hawk could not right itself and move without letting go.

There were a few convulsive movements in the bush, and some white feathers drifted out. Then there was stillness and silence. It was a complete deadlock.

The situation was resolved a moment later by a man approaching with a dog. The hawk abandoned its prey, twisted round and flew off rapidly.

I went closer, wondering what state the redwing would be in, and was astonished to see it fly out of the bush apparently unharmed. It must have dived into the bush when the hawk flew at it — and its stratagem had succeeded.



Marauding sparrowhawk

I would have felt sorry for the redwing if it had lost the battle but now I felt sorry for the hawk that had lost its meal. Small birds have techniques for protecting themselves. Generally, birds of one species do not react to the calls of another. But this is not the case with alarm calls. A blackbird sees a sparrowhawk circling overhead and, as it sweeps into cover, gives a loud, clattering cry. A wren hears it and starts "tick-ticking", and a robin does the same. Then some long-tailed tits start chattering, and they all move to a less exposed place.

WHAT was particularly surprising during the battle I saw in the bush is that all the while a blue tit was hopping about feeding, only a foot or two from the sparrowhawk. I think that it simply did not recognise the hawk. It had the built-in ability to recognise the form of a hawk overhead or approaching, but nothing in its genes helped it with an upside-down sparrowhawk. So it just went calmly and happily on its way.

DERWENT MAY

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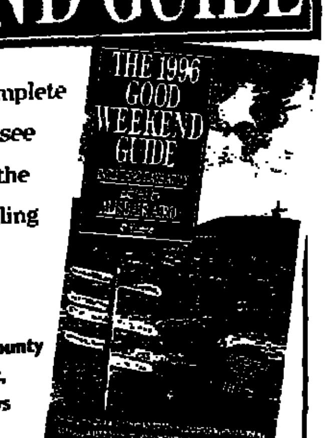

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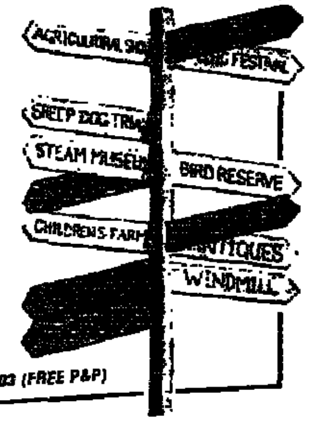

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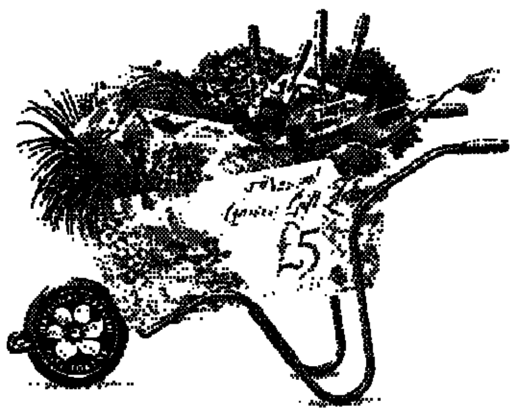


The gift that grows

TRAVEL

ITALY: **Walter Ellis** wanders the old churches of Tuscany, **Charles FitzRoy** explores Bologna, and…

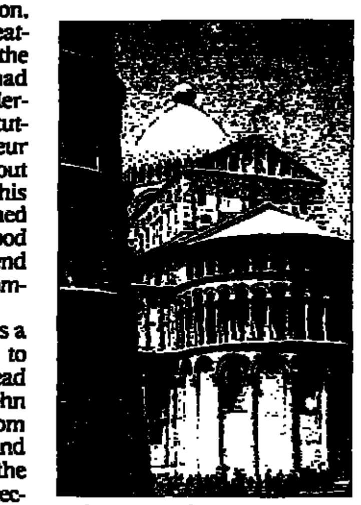
A pride of pulpits

TUSCANY is one of those places everyone assumes you have been to. Since the first British colonists arrived in the 1950s, with their do-it-yourself guides to Italian land purchase, the region has become in our imagination not a lush and storied corner of Europe's most favoured nation, but Chiantishire, a kind of southern annex of the Cotswolds, with cheap wine and excellent home help.

My first trip to Tuscany, last autumn, was an attempt to bridge a cultural gap. The idea was that my partner and I would fly to Pisa, meet up with a group of fellow seekers after truth and spend up to six hours a day exploring a range of art and architectural treasures.

Our guide was Dr Edward Chaney, of Oxford Brookes University. Dr Chaney, after the death of his patron, Harold Acton, is the greatest living authority on the "grand tour", and I had somehow expected an elderly, stooped martinet, tut-tutting over our amateur confusions. He turned out to be a dapper figure, in his early forties, who wished everyone to have a good time and was ready to bend all sorts of rules to accommodate our wishes.

"Home" each night was a hillside villa belonging to an affable Hampstead couple, Berenice and John Bonallack. Our bedroom overlooked the patio, and the view extended into the hills for miles in all directions. Even in October there were crickets chirruping and an abundance of flowers. The air was clear and cool, so that at night the stars burst through with a most un-English radiance and, occasionally, wood smoke, perfumed with resin, drifted up from the valley.


Pisa cathedral and tower

First, though, straight from the airport, we had learnt to suffer for our art. It was in Pisa, in the airy immensity of the Baptistry, at the opposite end of the Piazza dei Miracoli to the leaning tower, that we encountered our first pulpit. Dr Chaney, it emerged, was not just a voluble Eurosceptic but a bit of a pulpit fetishist, believing that the glories of Cimabue, Caravaggio and Raphael had to be measured against the complexities of a decent 12th or 13th-century preaching platform, particularly if made by Nicola or Giovanni Pisano. Clearly we were going to have to keep our wits about us.

Relief came when a church employee, who seemed to combine the offices of verger, cantor and curator, treated us to a spontaneous demonstration of the Baptistry's accoustics. The harmonics he released via a pure tenor voice resonated round the walls and proved an eerie experience, albeit one of which Pope Gregory I would have approved.

That night, as every night, we dined superbly, fed by Lucinda, a graduate of the Prue Leith school of cookery. As the courses kept coming and the wine flowed, presided over by the beneficent Bonallacks, our little group of disparate souls began to coalesce around inevitable stories of marital disharmony, career crises and financial frustrations: the middle classes at supper.

What time would we set off in the morning, our leader inquired as midnight came and went. Nine o'clock? "Ten, ten," came the bibulous reply. And so to bed.

Our tour took us, twice, to Lucca, an almost perfect medieval town, its ramparts as formidable as during the centuries when it resisted Tuscan expansion and the power of the Medicis. The churches and galleries of Lucca are remarkable and contain many treasures, including a splendid late 15th-century pulpit in the duomo by Civitali. Even so, my partner and I begged time off to negotiate, by means of sign language, the purchase of hunks of Parma ham, parmesan cheese, a horseshoe of salami and a bottle of Lucchese olive oil. This was culture of another kind.

Midweek found us lined up outside the Villa Medici in Fiésole. The villa is amazing. It was the first "modern" mansion, commissioned by Cosimo de' Medici in the early 1450s for his son, Giovanni, but was so successful in execution that it could easily be taken for the Long Island retreat of the Great Gatsby. Our problem was that it was closed, yet such was Dr Chaney's indignation, combining academic hauteur with fluent stupefaction, that we were hurriedly admitted to the grounds.

Prato, on the way to Florence, has a museum housing one of Italy's most important collections of contemporary art. It also boasts a series of splendid fresoes by Fra Filippo Lippi. But the highlight for our party was the Pulpit of the Sacred Girdle, by Donatello and Michelozzo, in the duomo.

Next stop, Pistoia. The Pistolesi have a violent history and gave their name to an early firearm, but the town's outstanding work of art is — yes — the pulpit in the church of Sant'Andrea by Giovanni Pisano, the serenity of which is thought by some to rival that of Michelangelo. By now, we scarcely needed to be told.

● *The author was a guest of Simply Tuscany & Umbria, 598-608 Chiswick High Road, London W4 5RT (0181-995 8277). Tuscany Art & Architecture tours cost £896 per person for a seven-night stay, excluding flights, which can be arranged from £180. The price includes guided excursions, tuition, transfers, entrance fees and half-board accommodation with dinner. Tours depart on April 13 and October 5.*

Fat City plump in neglected treasures

A CONNOISSEUR'S GUIDE TO BOLOGNA

It is a well-kept secret that Bologna is the most civilised and underrated city in Italy, neglected by the hordes who descend on Florence and Venice. This is a city to wander through, enjoying the wealth of medieval and Renaissance palazzi from under the cover of endless picturesque arcades, and stopping whenever you feel like enjoying the marvellous food. I have selected two from any number of leading restaurants which have earned the city the title *la Grassa*, the Fat. *(See Getting there, below right)*

The blame for the demise in Bologna's popularity can be laid at the door of Ruskin, whose scathing condemnation of the Bolognese school brought a volte-face in Victorian public opinion, one that has lasted until the present day. Although the names of the leading Bolognese painters — Annibale Carracci, Guido Reni and Domenichino — once ranked alongside those of Raphael and Michelangelo, and far above Giotto and Masaccio, and their works embellished the walls of all the greatest English country houses, you can spend a pleasant hour in the Pinacoteca in Bologna admiring their Baroque masterpieces without encountering another tourist.

If your love of painting is restricted to the Renaissance, the church of San Giacomo Maggiore, the parish church of the all-powerful Bentivoglio family, contains some wonderful frescoes by the little-known Lorenzo Costa and Francesco Francia in the apse of the Bentivoglio Chapel. There are more delightful frescoes by Costa, Francia and Aspertini in the Oratory of St Cecilia behind the church; they rank with anything being painted by their contemporaries in Florence at the beginning of the 16th century.

The most splendid architectural ensemble in the city is the central Piazza Maggiore. The struggle for power between the church, the *comune* (civic council) and the guilds — represented in Bologna by the lawyers and the bankers, a struggle which afflicted every medieval town — is vividly illustrated in the competing magnificence of the palaces facing the square.

The vast unfinished façade of San Petronio, one of the most gigantic Gothic buildings ever erected in Italy, testifies to the enormous wealth of the city during the Middle Ages. This was the church chosen for the coronation of the Habsburg Emperor Charles V in 1530.

The Piazza Nettuno, leading off the north side of the square, is centred on the commanding bronze statue of Neptune by Giambologna. All but the most curious Bolognese maidens pretended to avert their gaze when passing beneath the trident of the unashamedly naked figure of the god of the sea.

A number of museums are clustered around the Piazza Maggiore. The Archaeological Museum has an important collection of Egyptian and Etruscan objects, and the Morandi Museum, in the Palazzo Communale, features the charming and peaceful works of the 20th-century painter Giorgio Morandi.

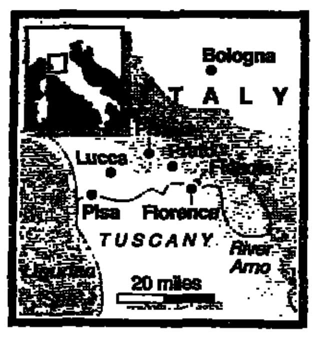
The most remarkable building is the extraordinary Anatomical Theatre, known as the Archiginnasio, which stands at the heart of the former site of the university, the oldest in Europe. Inside the building, which has been superbly restored after a bomb landed on it during the Second World War, the statues of famous professors of medicine, and dissected corpses supporting the professor of anatomy's chair, gaze down impassively on to an operating table.

Bologna is full of wonderful Renaissance sculpture. Pride of place goes to Jacopo della Quercia's dynamic reliefs over the central doorway of San Petronio, which exerted a decisive influence over Michelangelo, as well as Niccolo dell' Arca's haunting terracotta group of the *Entombment* in the little church of Santa Maria in Vita and the masterly tomb of St Dominic in the church of San Domenico, where the founder of the Dominican order died in 1221. The wealth of statues and reliefs adorning the tomb, by Niccolo Pisano, Niccolo dell'Arca (who took his name from this tomb), and the young Michelangelo, give an unrivalled idea of the splendour and range of Italian sculpture from the 13th to the 16th century.

Before leaving Bologna, do not miss the complex of churches clustered around Santo Stefano, dating back to the 5th century. An ancient pilgrimage centre, built in imitation of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, this is one of the most atmospheric places in all Italy.

PICTURES

The magnificent bronze statue of Neptune by Giambologna dominates the Piazza Nettuno

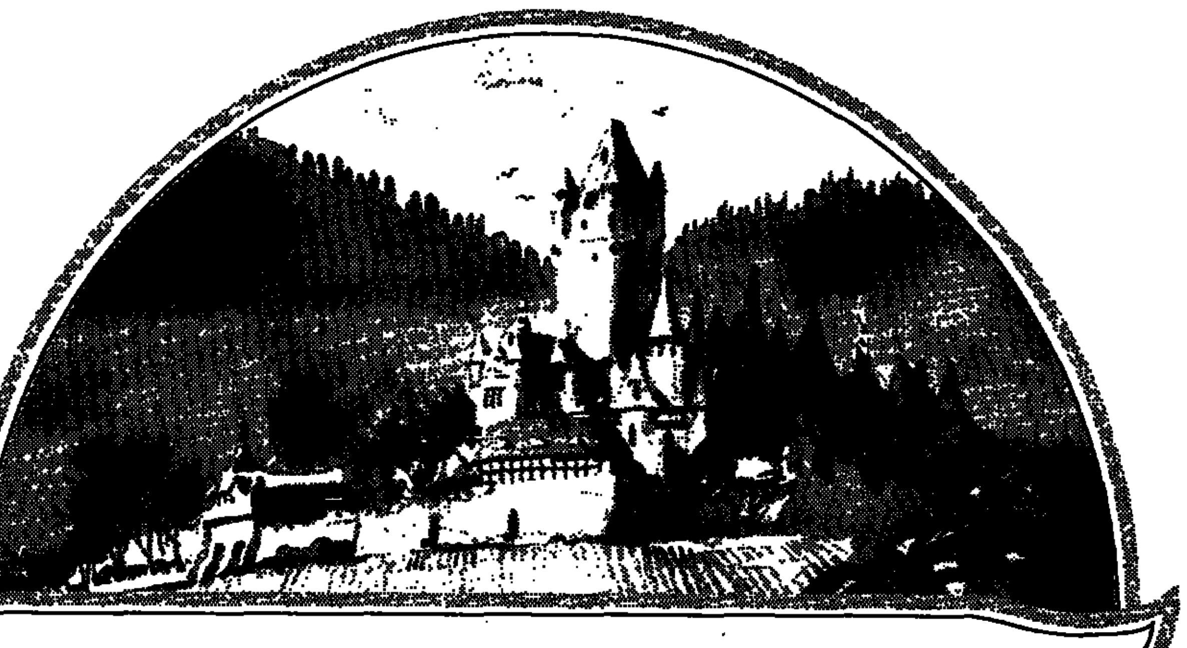


Getting there

☐ The author is chairman of Fine Art Travel (0171-437 8553, fax 437 1733), which organises specialist tours. Italy Sky Shuttle (0181-748 1333) offers return flights to Bologna from £151.

☐ Hotels (prices are for a double room per night and vary according to season): Grand Hotel Baglioni, Via Indipendenza 3 (00 39 51 225 445), £133. Hotel Orologio, Via IV Novembre 10 (250 552) £95. Hotel Cavour, Via Goito 4 (228 111) £75.

☐ Restaurants: Grasilli, Via del Luzzo 3, the best place to eat the cotaletta bolognese (veal). Anna Maria, Via delli Belli Arti, for those who love Bolognese pasta. Da Nello, Via Montegrappa 2, specialises in deep-fried vegetables.



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. . . Jeremy Paxman takes a stroll in the hills around Sienna

SPECTRUM

The picturesque town of San Gimignano, perched on hilltops overlooking vineyards and fields, is a welcome sight after a long, hot walk

Walking for wimps

Face the church and, before the cypress trees, take a little path down to the left . . . At bamboo tractor shed continue along path past goat enclosure . . Turn left in village by shrine inscribed 'Ave Maria'." This is emphatically not the Tuscany of the thundering coachloads of obese tourists sandwiching medieval churches between pasta and ice-cream.

The fortified towns of Tuscany, perched on hilltops overlooking vineyards and fields, were designed to resist attack. But the invasion of Nikkon-toting hordes has achieved what siege machines never managed. From May to September, the invaders swagger through the centres of the towns, lords of all they survey.

Mass tourism is the scourge of modern Europe. Of course, those who moan most loudly about the milling, singlet-clad crowds infesting the streets are themselves part of the problem. The argument is really about snobbery: the complainers want the glories of Europe for themselves and don't see why the piazzas should be polluted by the masses. As for the coach parties, you can hardly blame them if, after a while, one place blends into another.

There is no obvious answer, particularly since such great swaths of Europe now depend on the coach parties for their living. But walking Tuscany is a way, if you'll forgive the expression, of at least sidestepping the problem.

During the four days in which we walked from Certaldo to Siena we saw scarcely another visitor. As distances go, it was pretty paltry — 40-odd miles on tracks and paths. But it had the great merit that it introduced us to Tuscany at the speed at which it is best appreciated. This, you feel, is how you ought to come to town, with a small sack on your back, a ripe peach in hand and ever so slightly footsore.

When you approach a town such as Monteriggioni, its medieval walls and 14 towers perched high on a hilltop, you see it first through heat haze and perspiration. It is precisely the view Dante had, which he recalled in the *Inferno*.

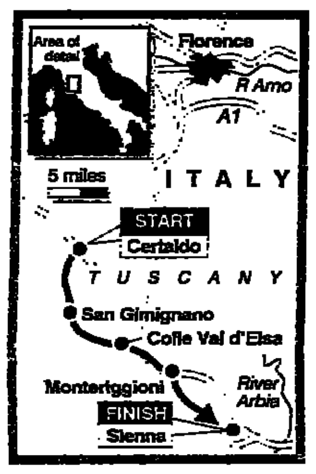
Of the towns on this short walk, Monteriggioni is the most charming, with its a hundred inhabitants, single food store, excellent restaurant and charming hotel, all set on the one central square.

> 'The air was sweet with the scent of broom and dog rose'

Colle Val d'Elsa, another fort perched on a hilltop, with a bustling town below, was almost as quiet. And even San Gimignano, one of the compulsory stops on every charabanc tour, seems charmed after a day's walk. The only other foreigners we had met that day were a couple of lost German archaeologists searching for an Etruscan necropolis. It came as a shock to walk through the gates of the town and discover that we weren't the only visitors. We felt we deserved the tingling lemon ice-creams the others took for granted.

The Tuscans are not entirely au fait with the idea of walking for pleasure. The farmer tending his vines looked up with an expression of indulgent bafflement. The occasional tractors and vans passing along the *strada bianca* connecting distant fortified farms would offer a lift on the assumption that no one walks unless their car has broken down or the sun has addled their brain. When we declined, they smilingly indulged us.

It was worth it. Most of the walk was along farm tracks



and scarcely used paths where the flowers and bushes formed an arch over our heads and the air was sweet with the scent of broom and dog rose. Sometimes we passed through vineyards, where the vines were still grown in the Etruscan style on pollarded sycamores. Other times we walked beside barns whose stink proclaimed a hundred pigs on their way to becoming parma hams. Once, as we dropped down a dell, three young roe deer continued gazing just yards in front of us until, with a start, they scampered off through the trees.

The illusions during this sort of holiday are multiple: that you are not part of the tourist crowd (you are, of course, but luckily you don't see the rest of them); that you are pathfinding (you're actually following a well-researched trail); that you're discovering the delightful hotels or B&Bs for yourselves (in fact, they've all been booked in advance).

The walking itself would be laughed at by any serious hiker. It is extremely unchallenging, not a patch on, say, the Scottish Highlands. But the Highlands have miserable wine and you couldn't find a village grocer to knock you up a parma ham and parmesan sandwich for love or money.

We never covered more than nine or so miles a day, which in the June sun was enough. The route instructions were accompanied — for the benefit of the neurotic or easily confused — by precise measures of the number of metres between directions. They have been refined over the years and we got lost only once.

Our bags, which had been left in the lobby of the last hotel that morning, would reappear in the hotel room of our destination that night. It was walking for softies, certainly, but it's a nice way to see Tuscany.

Fact file

☐ The author travelled to Tuscany as a guest of Alternative Travel, 69-71 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PE (01865 310244), which offers a seven-night walking holiday from £695, including scheduled return flights from Gatwick by Alitalia, dinner, bed and breakfast, picnic lunches and transfer of luggage between stops.

TRAVEL TIPS

☐ Solo's (0181-951 2811) has a *week-long painting course* in Provence which tours the landscapes that Cézanne made famous. The course is for singles and costs £685 per person, including three days' tuition from a local artist, seven nights B&B in a family-run hotel in St Rémy-de-Provence, three dinners and coach transfers.

☐ VFB Holidays (01242 240310) offers self-catering cottages in Cézanne country for up to five people from £150 per week in early July. The cottages, in Trets, are close to the hills of Mont Ste. Victoire and the vineyards of the Var. Self-drive prices include accommodation and ferry crossings.

☐ P&O (0990 980 980) has *new day-trips* to Le Havre or Cherbourg from Portsmouth for £29 per person. Passengers must take a car and at least one other person. The price includes an on-board three-course meal and ten hours in France. The offer runs until June 30.

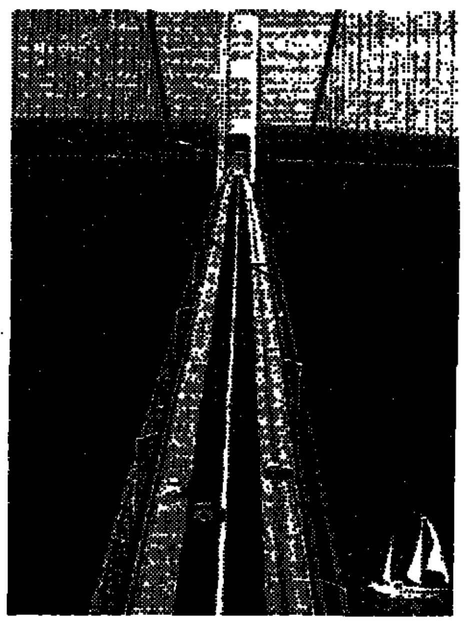
☐ Headwater Holidays (01606 48699) has a cross-country skiing beginners' week in central France for £297 per person, starting on March 23. The skiing area is at Les Estables, near Ste. Etienne, and is ideal for those new to the sport. The price includes seven nights' full board in the three-star Hotel Découverte, self-drive with a Hover-speed Channel crossing from Dover to Calais, and five days' Nordic skiing tuition. The package also includes ski pass and hire of boots, poles and skis.

☐ Admirers of the Impressionists have until June 30 to enjoy two-night weekend breaks by Citalia (0181-686 5533) for £339 in Milan, where Russia's Pushkin Museum is showing 85 masterpieces at the Palazzo Reale. The price includes flights, transfers and B&B at the three-star City Hotel on the main shopping street, Corso Buenos Aires. Entrance to the exhibition is £6.50.

☐ A two-night B&B weekend break in the two-star Hotel Romae in Rome is £288 with Cresta Holidays (0990 561814). The price is based on two people sharing. Half-day "artistic Rome" tours, which visit the Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel, can be pre-booked with Cresta for £22.50. Flights from Gatwick.

☐ Walk gently along Italy's beautiful Ligurian coast for a week from May 18 for £510 with Waymark Holidays (01753 516477). Each day includes a guided walk from the Hotel Noris in the village of Alassio. Return flights are from Stansted to Nice and luggage transfers are included.

ALEX WIJERATNA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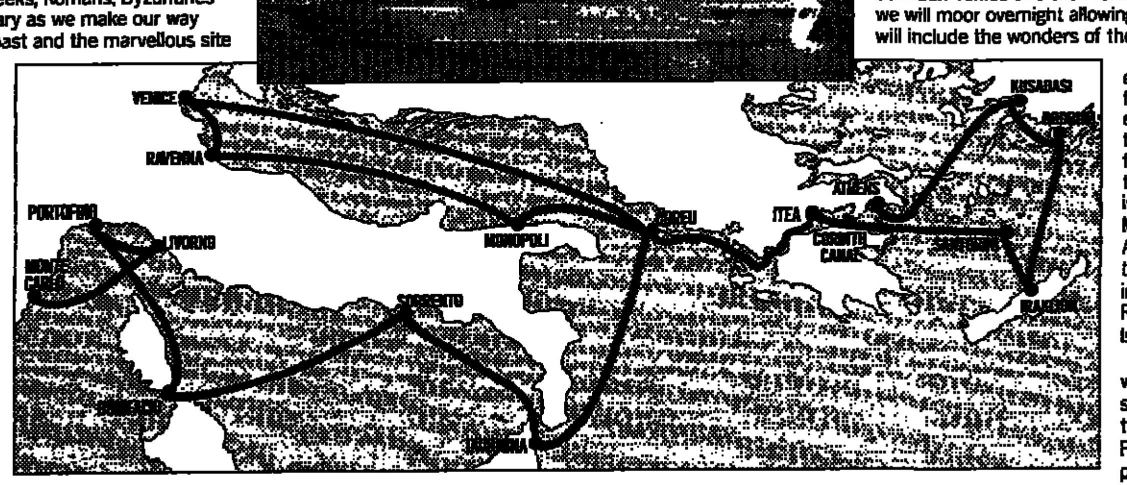

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ABOARD THE RENAISSANCE IV
3-15 July and 11-23 September 1996*

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Leaving Turkish waters we will next head for the island of Crete, home of the great and mysterious Minoan civilisation, and then sail to the Cyclades and the stark volcanic island of Santorini. Then, by courtesy of the Emperor Nero, we will navigate the Corinth Canal. He created this passageway through the Peloponnese Peninsula in 67 AD to shorten the journey from the Aegean to Adriatic.

From Itea we shall visit the Temple of Apollo, site of the famous Delphic Oracle and then continue to the island of Corfu, one of the most beautiful and varied of all Greek islands. Crossing the Adriatic we shall moor in a rarely visited area of South Eastern Italy at the port of Monopoli. Here the unique trulli architecture (archaic cone-roofed stone house) and the medieval villages make for a fascinating morning of exploration.

Our penultimate call will be Ravenna, the western capital of Byzantium and the seat of Venice's suzerain lord, the Exarch. Finally, in the early hours of the morning we shall approach Venice. Be on deck before breakfast to witness our arrival at this most splendid of all Italian cities.

*This date operates in reverse order from Venice to Athens.

THE ITINERARY
DAY 1 London-Athens
DAY 2 Athens
DAY 3 Athens
DAY 4 Kusa dasi
DAY 5 Bodrum
DAY 6 Iraklion
DAY 7 Santorini
DAY 8 Corinth Canal-Itea
DAY 9 Corfu
DAY 10 Monopoli
DAY 11 Ravenna
DAY 12 Venice
DAY 13 Venice-London

PRICES PER PERSON SHARING A SUITE

Inclusive prices range from £2695 for a Standard suite to £3995 for a Premium suite. Single Standard suites are £3795.

Prices subject to surcharge. Ports subject to change.

Price includes: Economy class air travel London-Athens and Venice-London, 2 nights at the Athens Hilton Hotel on breakfast only basis, 10 nights aboard Renaissance IV on full board, shore excursions and Athens excursions, entrance fees, local guides, porterage at docks, transfers, port taxes, UK departure tax, Guest Speakers, Cruise Director and assistants.

Not included: Travel insurance, airport taxes, tips to ship's crew.

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ABOARD THE RENAISSANCE IV
15-25 July and 1-11 September 1996*

A veritable feast of art and architecture await those fortunate enough to join our party aboard the Renaissance IV as she sails between Venice and the French Riviera. In Venice, 'Bride of the Sea', we will moor overnight allowing for a complete day of exploration which will include the wonders of the Byzantine and Renaissance periods.

Sailing out of Venice in the early evening is a wondrous sight. This will be followed by a day cruising the Adriatic en-route to Corfu, when we shall make the most of the vessel's excellent facilities. Our itinerary will take us from the lovely island of Corfu to Sicily, an island where the whole history of the Mediterranean is mirrored, and on to the Amalfi Coast. Here, amongst some of the most enchanting coastal scenery imaginable, we will visit the remarkable Roman city of Pompeii and the lovely Isle of Capri.

Before continuing our Italian journey we will make a deviation to the beautiful southern coast of Corsica and from there return to the Italian resort of Portofino. This is surely one of the most picturesque and romantic coastal towns anywhere along the shores of the Mediterranean.

Following the Tuscan coast we will reach Livorno, our port for Florence. The Renaissance, one of the great epochs of European civilisation, originated here in the great city of Florence and our full day excursion will include some of its treasures.

Our final port will be Monaco where we will have a full day to explore the principality and the Riviera beyond as well as an overnight mooring allowing us to enjoy Monte Carlo by night.

*This date operates in reverse order from Monte Carlo to Venice.

PRICES PER PERSON SHARING A SUITE

Inclusive prices range from £2295 for a Standard suite to £3795 for a Premium suite. Single Standard suites are £3295.

Prices subject to surcharge. Ports subject to change.

Price includes: Economy class air travel London-Venice and Nice-London, 10 nights aboard Renaissance IV on full board, shore excursions as detailed including entrance fees, local guides, transfers, porterage at docks, port taxes, UK departure tax, Guest Speakers, Cruise Director and assistants.

Not included: Travel insurance, airport taxes, tips to ship's crew.

THE ITINERARY
DAY 1 London-Venice
DAY 2 Venice
DAY 3 At sea
DAY 4 Corfu
DAY 5 Taormina
DAY 6 Sorrento, Amalfi Coast
DAY 7 Bonifacio
DAY 8 Portofino
DAY 9 Livorno for Florence
DAY 10 Monte Carlo
DAY 11 Monte Carlo-London

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE TIMES

INDIA: **Stephen McClarence** in Dharamsala joins the horde …

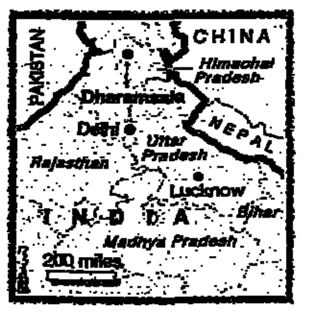
Levis and lamas on the road to Shangri-La

IMAGES OF INDIA

Monks tread the hard mountain road to Dharamsala, but for many truth lies at the end

They sit in the Rising Horizon café nibbling their banana cake and sipping their cinnamon tea. Crows caw outside the window… "I had to enter an empty space," says a man with a greasy ponytail and John Lennon specs to a woman with a stubbly, shaved head. "You know — a real recess in my mind."

At the next table, an ample American matron is sharing wisdom with a maroon-robed Buddhist monk. "The bottom line of consciousness," she drawls, "is that we are whole. And how many parts are there in a whole?" The monk stares deep into his dinner. How many steamed dumplings are there in a bowl of soup?



We are talking ego-tourism up here in Dharamsala, in what the road signs call The Valley of Peace and Love. Perched on a ridge high in the clouds, it is one of the last outposts of bell-bottoms and tie-dye T-shirts, droopy moustaches and floppy velvet hats. It's Dreadlocksville, man, and, hey, it really grooves.

People who look as though they've been tied up in a sack since Woodstock come here, up hairpin-bends, to crash out, to space out, to get high in the Himalayas. They come for the karma, for the dharma, for the Dalai Lama.

His Holiness, as all call him, has been based here with his Tibetan Government-in-exile and 5,000 of his followers since 1960. His presence has helped turn McLeodganj, at the upper end of Dharamsala, from a scruffy Indian hill station into a state of mind, a Nirvana-Nirvana land, a cool Kathmandu-substitute for Crosby, Stills, Nash and the not-so-Young. It's a whiff of New Age for 1960s freaks approaching old age and it vibrates with Grateful Dead, pulsates with Pink Floyd.

People come here, 300 miles north of Delhi, expecting Shangri-La. What they find is, at heart, a shanty town. McLeodganj — McLeod Nine, some call it — has open sewers and rubbish-strewn hillsides. The Zen Video Theatre screens the World Wrestling Federation. The bazaars are stacked with cassettes of *Prayer Music for World Peace*, Lhasa karaoke and trinkets for the Westerners who dress like Tibetans. A fair few Tibetans prefer Levis and trainers. The Dalai Lama goes for stout walking shoes and a yellow umbrella. Since boyhood he has been campaigning against the Chinese persecution of Tibetans. His directness throws into relief the woozy romanticism of many of his Western followers, with their sentimental vision of the Lost Horizon. His press releases carry an e-mail code.

In his private audience room, he offers a crisp critique of materialism and says he doesn't expect the West's interest in Buddhism to end with him, despite the personality cult others have created. His every word is treasured. A glimpse of him in a passing car lights up Tibetan faces. Hands press involuntarily together in prayer. His subjects spend weeks trudging over mountains to catch sight of him at Tibetan new year rituals that seem to echo down from a distant age.

Crowds pack the temple courtyard, twirling their creaking prayer wheels. Old women, with faces like creased leather and bright silk threads braided into their hair, squat. Bells chime. Monks chant in low growls. Multicoloured prayer flags flutter like pennants at a regatta. The scent of burning juniper wafts over prostrating pilgrims.

Suddenly priests in plumed yellow hats stream from the temple and conch-shell fanfares sound over the mountains. It is as mystically "other" as you could hope for.

The Dalai Lama can bring it all instantly down to earth. He bustles purposefully through the crowd like a civil servant late for a departmental meeting. In his spare time from being a god-king, a reincarnation of divine compassion and a living Buddha to 14 million people, he enjoys repairing broken clocks in his workshop. And his laugh is seismically cheerful.

Dharamsala is a town full of exiles — Tibetans exiled from their country, truth-seeking Westerners exiled from their own culture. When they leave their guest houses — 50p a night gets you a dormitory bed and the Tibetans' startling warmth and hospitality — the truth-seekers can sign on for retreats or have their palms read at Mr Prakash's Self-Search Centre. He offers

Continued on next page

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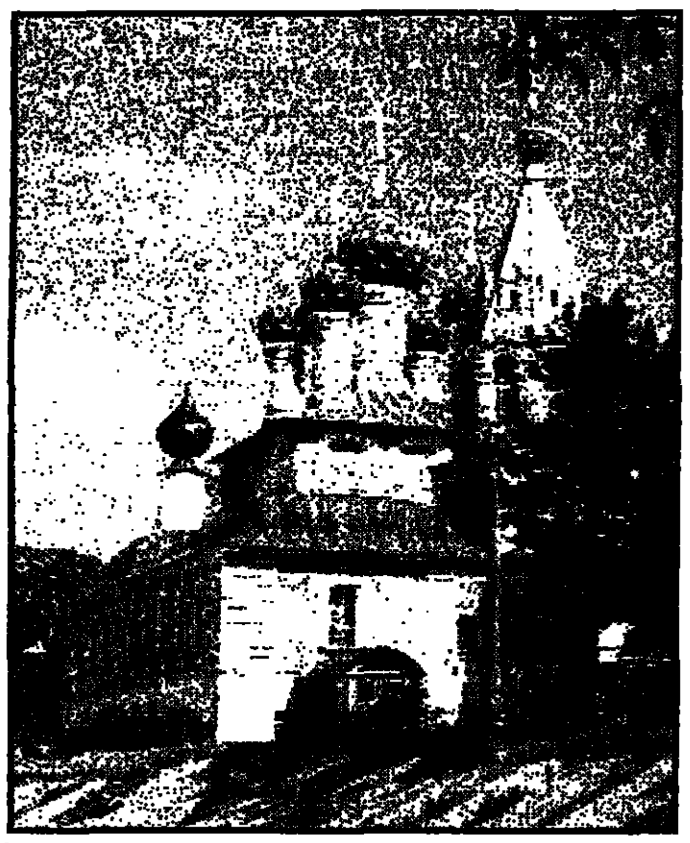
For many the visit to Kizhi Island in Lake Onega will be the highlight of the waterway journey. Here the magnificent Church of the Transfiguration with its 22 shimmering grey domes in three tiers are more than a match for the fairytale splendour of Moscow's St Basil's. From here we cruise through the fascinating waterway system through Goritsy to the cities of the Golden Ring, stopping at Yaroslavl and Uglich on the mighty Volga. These magical cities of Holy Russia still preserve their medieval kremlins, fortified monasteries and churches, in surroundings remote from the modern world.

For this journey we have selected the MS Karamzin which, although not as high a standard as our other vessel the MV Kirov, offers very good facilities considering the competitive tariff. This is especially relevant in view of the high hotel prices now applied in Russia due to the westernisation of the hotels. This tour will therefore appeal to those wishing to see unspoilt parts of Russia from an economical and comfortable base.

The MS Karamzin

This comfortable, well-maintained ship was built in Germany and partially renovated this year. All cabins are outside with large picture window (except those on the Lower Deck that have two portholes), private shower, toilet and individual temperature control; the ship is fully air-conditioned. The bright, pleasant restaurant has windows on three sides offering views as you dine. Cuisine (Russian and Continental) is adjusted to western taste. There is a main lounge/ bar with live music, several more lounges, a souvenir shop, beauty shop and ample deck space. Laundry service is available and a medical doctor is on board. As the ship is now under Western management, you can expect many upgraded amenities (including quality towels, soap, toilet paper, coffee) and better food, service, cruise director and staff.



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Itinerary

Day 1 Depart from London Gatwick by air to St Petersburg. Drive to the MS Karamzin which will moor in St Petersburg for two nights.

Day 2 In the morning a sightseeing tour of the city will include the Fortress of St Peter and St Paul.

Day 3 Visit the Hermitage Museum in the morning. Afternoon visit to Pushkin, the blue and gold rococo palace designed for the Empress Elizabeth by Rastrelli. In the afternoon explore St Petersburg. Sail in the evening.

Day 4 Svir Stroy - the day is spent leisurely cruising Lake Ladoga and the Svir River stopping at the village of Svir Stroy, a quaint riverside village.

Day 5 Kizhi Island - sail across Lake Onega to Kizhi Island. A tour will encompass some splendid examples of 18th-century Russian architecture including typical wooden churches, houses with early barns and a windmill.

Day 6 Goritsy - sail along the Baltic Canal and across White Lake to the town of Goritsy to visit the well-preserved Kirill-Belosersk Monastery.

Day 7 Yaroslavl - a city sightseeing tour will include the churches of the Korovniki overlooking the Volga and fine examples of the town's 16th-century architecture.

Day 8 Cruise along the Volga to Uglich. Founded in the 12th century, it was here that Ivan the Terrible's youngest son, Dmitri, was murdered. We visit the Church of St Demetrius, built on the spot where his body was found. On our walking tour we will also see the medieval Kremlin. Sail in the evening towards Moscow.

Day 9 Sail along the River Moskva reaching Moscow itself in the late morning. A city tour is arranged for the afternoon.

Day 10 Morning city tour of Moscow to include the major sights such as Red Square, St Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin.

Day 11 Transfer to the airport for the flight to Gatwick.

Departures & Prices
1996 - per person on the Lower Deck

May 4*, 15	£695.00
June 22*	£695.00
July 3, 13*, 24	£695.00
August 31*	£695.00
September 11, 21*	£695.00
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* these departures operate in the reverse direction (Moscow to St Petersburg) and include one extra night visiting Kostroma: £49 supplement per person.

Supplements
per person

Single cabin	£300.00
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Boat Deck	£220.00

Price includes: return air travel, full board, 7 nights' accommodation on the MS Karamzin, excursions and entrance fees, all transportation, services of cruise director. Not included: travel insurance, airport taxes, visa, tips. All prices are subject to change.

Longer Duration

A 14-night itinerary is also available at a supplement of £240 per person on the following dates: May 25 (ex. Moscow), June 8 (ex. St Petersburg), August 3 (ex. Moscow) and August 17 (ex. St Petersburg). Please contact us for further details.

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Itinerary at a Glance
Rio de Janeiro (Hotel Sheraton) 2 nights
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Manaus (Hotel Tropical) 1 night
Amazon (Amazon Village) 2 nights
Salvador (Hotel Bahia Othon) 1 night

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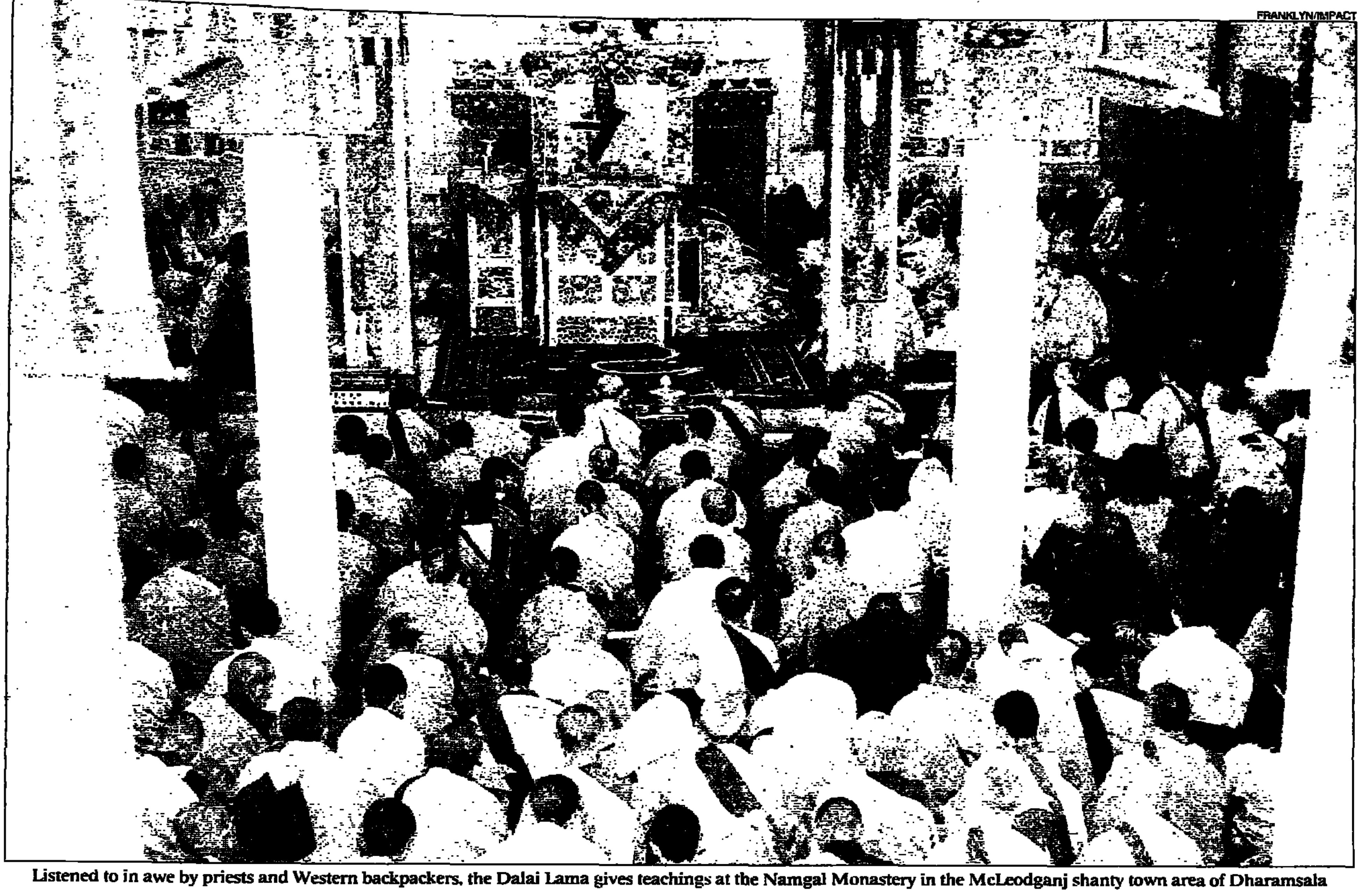
[illegible]

… of truth-seekers at the court of the Dalai Lama; and haunting palace hideaways in Rajasthan's hills


FRANKLYN/IMPACT

Listened to in awe by priests and Western backpackers, the Dalai Lama gives teachings at the Namgal Monastery in the McLeodganj shanty town area of Dharamsala

Continued from page 18

rebirthing, magnetology and inner-body cleansing ("with water techniques"). He has cures for "confusion, inferiority complex, misery due to doubts, cold, catarrh, obesity, paralysis, pessimistic attitude *and pain in the knees*".

Down the road, Dr Yeshi Dhonden, the Dalai Lama's physician, holds surgeries for visitors. A young French woman brings a urine sample in a jam jar. Dr Dhonden pours it into a mixing jug and whisks it as though preparing an omelette. *He* feels her pulse, forbids ice-cream and prescribes pills that include elephants' gallstones.

It wasn't always like this, a Little Tibet in India. In the half-light of his 136-year-old general store, Mr N.N. Nowrojee is nostalgic for "the good old days" when Dharamsala was a fashionable British hill resort, a place for colonials to escape the heat of the plains. *His father* imported *whisky* and uncut cheese for the soldiers and administrators.

The 1940s advertisements for Peak Freans' Glaxo biscuits and the Valet Auto-Strop Safety Razor still hang over the counters. Look at this album, he says — page after sepia page of plus-fours and pith helmets and people certain they were doing the right thing by India. Most of them are now in the St John-in-the-Wilderness churchyard. It's a poignant, forlorn place, full of inspectors of telegraphs and surgeon-majors straight out of Kipling. Full of apothecaries to the 32nd Gordon Highlanders and wives of adjutants who died in their twenties after burying their infant children.

Here lie Oswald Charde and Hardwicke Holderness, Cubitt Sparkhall Rundle and the Rev John Nepomuk Merk. Here, too, a man killed by a bear and a lot of people *killed* in a 1905 earthquake that brought Dharamsala's popularity with the British to a rapid close.

The town has enjoyed a revival in recent years. Rich Indian couples who no longer go to Kashmir for their honeymoon come here instead. Flash new hotels have been thrown up to cater for them. In their designer leisure wear, the honeymooners mix uneasi*ly with the Tibetans and the* would-be Tibetans.

For all the changes, some of the old magic lingers. At sunset, the Himalayas glow pink and seem to float on purple clouds. On starry nights, the moonlight glistens on the snowy mountains. The views, says the guidebook, are so stunning that colonial Brits "went into ruptures over them". But then, the hills are very steep round here.

How to get there and where to stay

☐ The author flew to Delhi with Air India (return flights from £440), booked through Trailfinders (0171-938 3366). Swissair (0171-434 7300) offers flights from £373. British passport holders need a visa.

☐ Dharamsala is most easily reached from Delhi: by bus, the journey takes up to 13 hours and the fare is about £2; the train from Delhi to Pathankot takes about 11 hours and costs around £2 — then comes a three-hour bus journey to Dharamsala (fare 50p). A taxi from Delhi costs about £60 and is far more comfortable.

☐ In Dharamsala, a double room at the Dhauladhar Hotel costs about £14 a night. The hotel is comfortable, well-run and has superb views of the mountains from its terrace. *Travellers on a tight budget will find many guest houses that* charge as little as £2 a night.

☐ For further information about Dharamsala, contact the Government of India Tourist Office, 7 Cork Street, London W1X 1PB (0171-437 3677).

Mirrors reflect a glorious past

On my first visit to India a year ago, we hurtled round Rajasthan's golden triangle — Delhi, Agra and Jaipur — within four days. The India of the mogul emperors offers magnificent *sights. It is an exhilarating* experience — but joining the hectic tourist shuttle, especially after an overnight flight and death-defying drives along India's roads, is draining.

My second visit last week was a gentler and more evocative introduction to Rajasthan. Within 12 hours of leaving London, we were relaxing at a 15th-century fort-palace above the village of Neemrana after a two-hour drive from Delhi.

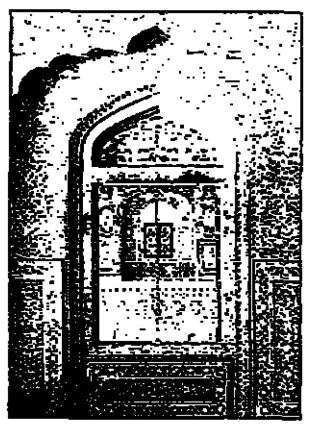
Since it is concealed in the Aravalli ranges, you cannot even see the Neemrana Fort-Palace from the main Delhi-Jaipur road a mile away. It is one of India's secrets — a series of stepped palaces sprawling across three acres of hillside, with 35 rooms, each overlooking arid plains dotted with small hills.

After a night in economy, this is undoubtedly the way to start an Indian holiday, offering an opportunity to relax and absorb the unhurried Indian way of life. At Neemrana, all is tranquillity. There are no phones, the fax doesn't work, there is no room service and the supply of water and electricity is erratic. "While the generators are switched on when the necessity arises, guests are requested … to switch centuries by using candles and lanterns," says the management, adding, in a touch of *Fawlty Towers*, that the "minor inconveniences" may include not being able to find their room.

When they do, however, they are magnificent, each with a balcony or terrace, an ample supply of candles and with green parakeets swooping to the parapets. Don't go to Neemrana, however, if your boredom threshold is low. There is nothing to do here but stand and stare, enjoy the terraced gardens of bougainvillea, admire the palace of breezes, walk across the plain to the nearby 18th-century well, or visit the village below.

An alternative first-day stopover, four hours from Delhi, is Samode, another hideaway, a Disneyesque, 18th-century yellow palace, approached through a massive gateway.

There is much more to admire at Samode, 25 miles from Jaipur. The highlight is the Sheesh Mahal, Samode's palace of mirrors, its walls and ceiling exquisitely decorated with convex mirror glass and red and yellow glass set in plaster, interspersed with murals — as stunning, say experts, as the more famous Sheesh Mahal at Jaipur's Amber Palace. The red Durbar Hall below is decorated with paintings and gilding. Both *are hauntingly beautiful.*


Exquisite frescoed walls in the Samode Palace

After the solitude of Samode or Neemrana, you are much better prepared to race round the golden triangle.

BRIAN MACARTHUR

● *The author was a guest of Greaves Travel (0171-487 9111), which organises tailor-made tours of India. The six-day trip, excluding flights, costs from £490 pp based on two sharing.*

☐ *He flew with British Airways — return flight to Delhi costs from £419.*

☐ *By British standards, even five-star hotels in India are relatively cheap. Rooms at Neemrana range from £20 to £50 accommodating three or four, to £100 for a deluxe suite for four, with dinner for £7. Similar prices operate at Samode*

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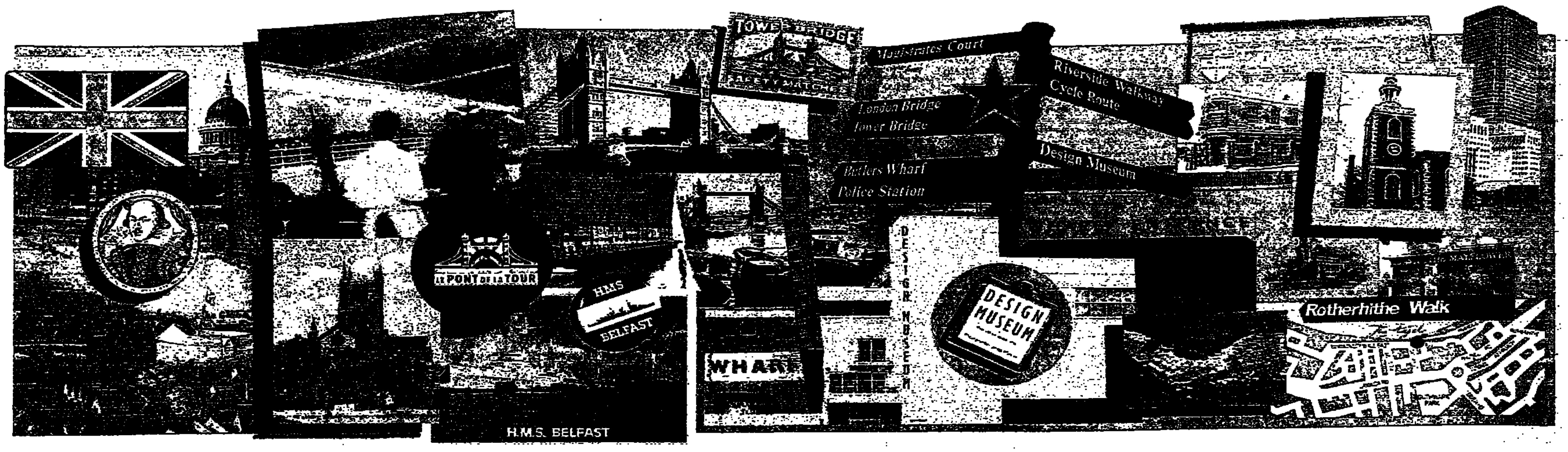
LONDON: The ghosts of seafarers, dockers and Pepys are conjured up between Rotherhithe and Bankside

PAUL BURGESS



A Dickens of a riverside walk

Rotherhithe might not be the first place you would think of as a starting point for a walk through London. Its greatest claim to historical significance is as the point from which the *Mayflower* began its journey to New England. And some might say that people have been trying to get out of Rotherhithe ever since.

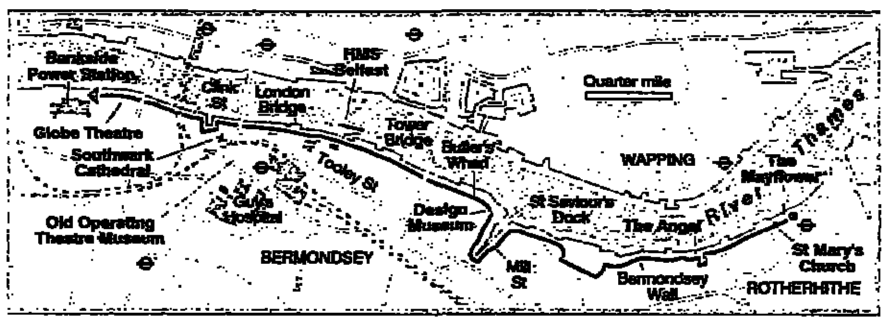
But if you leave the capital's tourist traps and explore the south bank of the Thames from Rotherhithe to Bankside, you'll find dramatic riverscapes and a stretch of historic waterfront that has so far escaped being repackaged as "heritage" London.

The walk begins at the Mayflower, an antiquated waterside inn behind Rotherhithe Tube station. It was from a mooring near here that the *Mayflower* set sail in July 1620, travelling first to the south coast to collect the passengers who were to be remembered as the Pilgrim Fathers, the first permanent colonists of New England.

The captain of the *Mayflower*, Christopher Jones, and many of his crew are buried in the nearby graveyard of St Mary's, a church full of plaques reminding visitors that Rotherhithe was once a village of seafarers, shipbuilders and dockers. The once-thriving river trade has almost disappeared and the walk catches a corner of London still in the process of change.

In Rotherhithe you can see where the cross-currents of decline and redevelopment meet, with expensive new houses, still dusty from the contractors' lorries, standing beside abandoned docks machinery. Across the river it's a scene of sharp contrasts, with the Gotham City skyline of Canary Wharf visible in the same frame as the crumbling Rotherhithe waterfront, with little sound except the clanking of old barges on empty piers.

The walk continues westwards, following a narrow alley past St Mary's churchyard towards another historic pub, the Angel, mentioned by Samuel Pepys in his diary. There are atmospheric river views up to Tower Bridge here, and beside the Angel there is evidence of a royal connection, in the recently excavated ruins of a manor house built for Edward III in the 1350s. Although so close to the centre of London, there is an eerie quietness here, a sense that becomes stronger as you leave the waterfront to walk along Bermondsey Wall. Between the road and the river are the empty and bricked-up warehouses that, together with wharves along Tooley Street, were known as "London's larder", a stretch of uninterrupted warehouses where, in its Victorian heyday, 75 per cent of the capital's butter, bacon and cheese were brought ashore and stored.



Dickensian is another word that springs to mind. As you follow the road from Bermondsey Wall to the warehouses on Mill Street and St Saviour's Dock, you pass the site of what was once Jacob's Island, the notorious den of poverty and vice that Dickens used as the setting for Bill Sikes's hang-out in *Oliver Twist*. When you look around at the upmarket apartments, it's worth remembering that this was the setting for some of Dickens's most angry prose as he railed against the "dirt-besmired walls and decaying foundations; every repulsive lineament of poverty, every loathsome indication of filth, rot and garbage". As you walk further to Shad Thames, past the style-conscious restaurants of the refurbished Butler's Wharf — known as Terence Conran's "gastrodome" — and the studied minimalism of the Design Museum, it's a challenge to the imagination to read Dickens's description of the scene, where "labourers, ballast-heavers, coal-whippers, brazen women, ragged children and the very raff and refuse of the river ... are assailed by offensive sights and smells from narrow alleys and deafened by the ponderous wagons that bear great piles of merchandise from the warehouses that rise from every corner".

Past Butler's Wharf, the path emerges at Tower Bridge, taking you into the heart of coach-party country. Following the river, you soon come to *HMS Belfast*, a Second World War cruiser that is now a museum. But these are well-worn paths and, if you're looking for something more unusual, it's worth taking a five-minute detour to the Old Operating Theatre Museum on St Thomas's Street.

This small museum is packed with a wince-inducing collection of historical medical instruments and a 19th-century operating theatre where surgeons practised their carpentry skills on unfortunate, unanaesthetised patients.

Back on the riverside path, the walk continues beneath the arch of London Bridge into a paved area beside Southwark Cathedral.

The cathedral is worth a visit in itself, with its architecture an assembly of styles from the medieval to the Victorians' version of medieval. Shakespeare's brother Edmund is buried there, as is the poet and friend of Chaucer, John Gower. To escape the crowds, walk on from the cathedral to Clink Street, a narrow lane that contains a medieval rose window (the remains of the palace of the bishops of Winchester) and whose name is synonymous with prisons everywhere. The worldly bishops once ran the Clink prison on this site. After the Reformation, in the religious vendettas of the 16th century, Protestant and Catholics were held in the Clink before being burnt at the stake in Smithfield. For an idea of how cruel prison life could be, the Clink Prison Museum has a gruesome selection of torturers' tools.

Beyond Clink Street is Bankside — where Londoners from the Middle Ages to the English Civil War took a walk on the wild side — with its theatres, bull and bear-baiting pits, brothels and taverns. The most spectacular reminder of this mixture of red-light district and arts centre is the reconstruction of the Globe Theatre, in which the thatched, wooden structure where Shakespeare's plays were performed has been recreated near to the presumed site of the original.

The site of the Rose Theatre, where Shakespeare acted and Christopher Marlowe's plays were first performed, is nearby. But, despite the uncovering of its foundations in 1989, the remains of the Rose are still hidden. If you're looking for the site, it's behind smoked glass in the basement of an office block on the corner of Rose Alley and Park Street. The site is unmarked as though this were a guilty secret rather than an international landmark.

When the Globe playhouse opens this year as planned, these cobbled, empty riverside streets could soon be filled with tourists. Contributing to the emergence of Bankside as a new cultural centre will be the transformation of the deserted Bankside power station into a new Tate Gallery. This huge brick structure is an industrial cathedral, echoing the shape of St Paul's facing it across the Thames.

Its windows are broken and you can still sit here in peace on a bench overlooking the river and feel that you are in a hidden part of London. But all around there are signs of change. Behind the power station, New York-style warehouse apartments are being built and, in the abandoned wharves, chic art galleries are opening, like the first missionaries of gentrification. It's worth visiting the area now before everything changes.

SEAN COUGHLAN

A guide to the Rotherhithe-Bankside walk

☐ Getting there: the walk, without rushing, takes about 90 minutes. The starting point can usually be reached by Tube to Rotherhithe but the East London line is currently suspended and a replacement bus service links stations. If you want to begin at Bankside, take the Tube to Mansion House and cross Southwark Bridge, or walk along the river path on the south bank of the Thames from Waterloo or Blackfriars bridges.

☐ Places of interest:
Design Museum, £4.50, open daily 11.30am-6pm, weekends noon-6pm (0171-378 6055).

☐ HMS Belfast: £4, open daily 10am-6pm (last ticket 5.15pm) (0171-407 6434).

☐ Tower Bridge: £5, open daily 9.30am-6pm (0171-407 0922).

☐ Old Operating Theatre Museum: £2, open daily from 10am-4pm except some Mondays (0171-955 4791).

☐ Southwark Cathedral: admission free, open daily 8am-6pm (0171-407 2939).

☐ Clink Prison Museum: £2.50, open daily 10am-6pm (0171-403-6515).

☐ Globe Theatre Exhibition: £4, open daily 10am-5pm (0171-928 6406).

☐ Eating and drinking: the walk passes three historic pubs with river views and food — the Mayflower, 117 Rotherhithe Street; the Angel, 24 Rotherhithe Street and the Anchor, 1 Bankside. Restaurants en route tend to be expensive, such as the "Gastrodome" at Butler's Wharf, which includes Pont de la Tour and Le Cantina. For a more modest meal continue past Bankside, beyond Blackfriars Bridge to the Gourmet Pizza Company, at Gabriel's Wharf.

TIMES/COCA-COLA COMPETITION

In last week's article on the Salute to Folk Art design competition, Joanne Alexander, of Gillingham, Kent, should have been included in the list of runners-up.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 25

AMPERSAND
(b) & or a corruption of "and per se — and", the old way of spelling and naming the character &. "Of all the types in a printer's hand/ Commend me to the ampersand."
VIZ
(c) Namely, from the Latin for "it is allowed to see", as you see. Viz. is written for the spoken namely. It introduces especially the items that compose what has been expressed as a whole. "For three good reasons, viz 1... 2... 3." Or a more particular statement of what has been vaguely described. "My only means of earning, viz. my talent for conjuring tricks."
BASSARID
(a) A Thracian bacchanal, a bacchante. The Greek word derived from *bassara* a fox, probably from their dress, made of fox-skins. Swinburne, *Atalanta in Calydon*, 1865: "And Pan by noon and Bacchus by night,... fills with delight/ The Maenad and the Bassarid."
FAVELA
(c) In Brazil, a shack, shanty; a slum. Usually in the plural *favelas*, a collection of improvised huts, a shanty town. Hence *favelado* a person living in a favela. The Portuguese word. "We cannot admire Rio's skyline for the squalid favelas nestling between her sugar-loaf hills."

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SKIING: **George Brock** finds the wide runs of the Canadian and American Rockies a trail-blazing pleasure

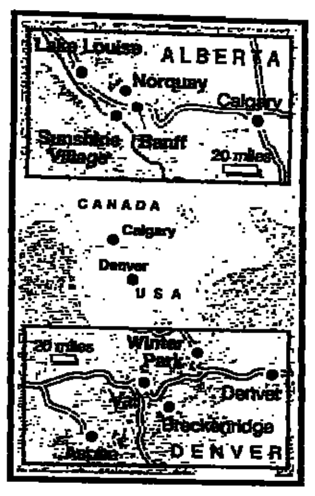
Slopes with that champagne feel

On the morning I set off to fly to the Rockies *The Times* was full of hair-raising stories about a marauding front of cold weather which had been freezing North America over the previous 48 hours. People in Nebraska had been chucking saucepans of boiling water in the air and watching the contents hit the ground as solid ice.

Digesting this news, my wife said that until that morning she had been envious of my trip, but now that America's thermometer was down around -40C, she had stopped feeling in the least bit jealous. "Rather you than me," she said archly. I left for Heathrow with low morale and thermal underwear.

Our party emerged from the plane in Calgary, to the west of the Rockies, to be met by a man wearing nothing warmer than a polo shirt. The cold snap had been and gone. But Canadians do measure cold by different yardsticks. I asked a ski guide how he defined passable skiing weather. "Oh, anything down to minus 15," he said. A woman described herself rather apologetically as a "fair weather skier". This turned out to mean that she dropped out when the temperature fell below -10C. With elaborate apologies for the interruption of service, the ski-lift men halt their machinery when it gets down around -30C. Brass monkeys do not feature in Canadian weather conversation.

Nor do they have "pistes". Language is another cultural adjustment you have to make. Pistes are "trails". Trails are not smoothed by piste-bashers but "groomed". This jargon produced an enchanting headline in one local newspaper this winter: "Ski groomers mistakenly bury rare fish." The half-track drivers accidentally shovelled snow over a stream which is home to the rare B-strain of the Colorado River cutthroat trout.



This is not the well-trodden landscape of the European Alps but a vaster, less-developed mountain range. In the foothills of the Rockies, farms have their own airstrips. I ate a buffalo steak (a touch chewy) at the Grizzly House in Banff but passed up a side order of rattlesnake. *Cigar Aficionado* is a big seller in newsagents. Every Hollywood movie featuring anything larger than a foothill — from *Cool Running* to *A River Runs Through It* — seems to have been shot hereabouts. But alongside the macho Marlboro man culture sits energetic environmental activism. The signs in the bathroom don't just tell you to save water but that the sign itself is made out of recycled plastic bottles.

Banff, the headquarters town for several ski areas, sits inside a national park, where the authorities have put a stop to new building and watch the ski developers like hawks. The town and its ski areas are thus more primitive and less developed than European skiers might expect. The buildings at Norquay (pronounced Norkway) are Portakabins, until they rebuild the small skiers' centre, which burnt down.

On the basis of looking at four sets of trails within reach of Banff, the advantages of skiing the Rockies clearly outweigh the disadvantages. But here are the pluses and the minuses to put in the scales.

On the plus side: Canadian slopes are gloriously uncrowded. I spent the first few days looking over my shoulder, as you naturally do on French pistes, where skiing tends to feel like driving on a motorway. I gradually learnt that when you look round there is, as often as not, no one there. The scenery is devastatingly beautiful, with longer views and more trees than you tend to see in the Alps. (The towns are less wonderful and a lot more ordinary to look at.)

At the moment, the Canadian dollar is low against the pound and life outside the hotel and off the slopes need not cost much. You can get a three-course meal for C$20 (£10). At the Grizzly House in Banff you pay more, but alligator fondue is on the menu. I tried bits of alligator fried in breadcrumbs a few days later in Colorado and they were chewy, too. I still prefer fish fingers.

People are friendly. It's nice to be asked, "How are you doing today?" by almost everyone you meet, at least some of whom mean it.

The snow is dry and powdery (most of these areas are at around 2,000m). One morning we began skiing in heavy snow but by lunch the sky had cleared and we were on an inch and a half of freshly fallen powder. It was like sailing on champagne.

SKISHOOT-OFFSHOOT

Winter Park, Colorado is working hard to rival its better-known rivals, Vail and Aspen

The snowboarder menace does not exist in Canada. In the Rockies snowboarding is a skill, not an attitude. Children, who learn to ski at school, can opt to learn snowboarding. A few wear grunge clothes, but they don't have the lager-swilling, drunk-at-the-wheel approach that gives boarders such high speed and low control in the Alps. At Sunshine Village, a snowboarder actually said, "After you" to me. I was so surprised I nearly ran into a tree.

A few drawbacks in Canada need underlining. Because of planning restrictions and the fact that the resorts are young, you can't ski to the door of your hotel or apartment. Shuttle buses are too few and far between to be much help to parents who want to get exhausted young skiers back to the chalet as quickly as possible. In the Rockies, it will pay to look at holidays which include the hire of a car — or, even better, a 4x4. The areas are smaller than their Alpine counterparts. Among the areas reachable from Banff, only Lake Louise comes close to European dimensions.

Two striking hotels make Banff a little different. The Banff Springs dominates the town as any 815-room hotel would be bound to do. The interior is an odd combination of mock Scottish laird's castle and a Tokyo shopping arcade. Japanese skiers flock to the Banff Springs, partly because it features regularly as a honeymoon destination in one of Japan's most popular television soap operas.

Château Lake Louise, Canadian Pacific's other monster hotel in the neighbourhood, is a shade less exotic but a good deal more elegant. The château would be worth staying in even if it were a B&B by virtue of its site on the end of a mountain lake. The entrance hall, roughly the dimensions of a small church, sports the largest modern reproduction Biedermeyer furniture and fittings I have ever seen. The rest of the public areas continue on the same scale, except for the health spa, which is cramped. Rooms are comfortable and recently redecorated. From the hotel you can cross-country ski, take sleigh rides, skate or watch rare winter arts, such as an ice sculpture competition.

From Calgary we hopped down to Denver to sample Winter Park, a Colorado resort working hard to compete with its better-known rivals — Vail, Aspen and Breckenridge. Winter Park enjoys all the advantages of places which have to try harder. You can ski there on a day trip by train: the station is at the foot of the lifts.

The ski area is one of the few in North America run as a non-profit operation and the slopes — some of the most spacious I have ever seen — are dotted with intrepid disabled skiers. The most remarkable of these sit in chairs on skis and keep their balance with another pair of short skis on sticks. Winter Park's ski school for the disabled is one of a handful of such places in the world.

We puffed round a glorious cross-country circuit in sunshine, disturbed only by the odd steaming competitor in a local race. We played billiards at a bar called Rome on the Range and were driven home by the manager when the local one-horse taxi company failed to show up. Winter Park is like that: homely and not star-spangled, aiming mostly at American customers up for the weekend from Denver.

At the end of a whistle-stop tour, which American holiday firms like to call the "two-nation vacation", one advantage stands out in the Rockies: the skiing is more relaxing because you're going down the slopes with fewer people.

How to get there, where to stay

☐ George Brock was a guest of Crystal Holidays (0181-399 5144) and Air Canada (0990 247226).

☐ Return flights to Calgary and a ten-day stay at either the Banff Springs or Château Lake Louise costs £500-£650 per person for the rest of the season. Demand is rising in these areas, so expect at least a 15 per cent rise in prices next season. Accommodation costs in Colorado's Winter Park are similar in less exotic hotels.

☐ Ski, stick and boot hire for ten days costs about £80-£90 at Lake Louise and about £60 in Banff; a three-area lift pass is about £175. Hire of a Ford Escort is £75 for ten days, a 4x4 Mustang £115.

☐ Helped by the start of direct Air Canada flights between Calgary and Denver, Crystal offers "2-nation vacations". For reservations call 0181-241 5000.

☐ Internet wonks can check out the snow at Lake Louise on http://skilouise.softnc.com/louise.html.

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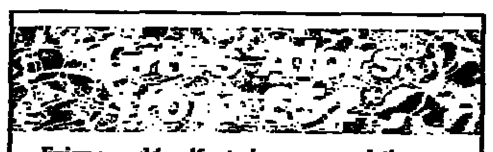

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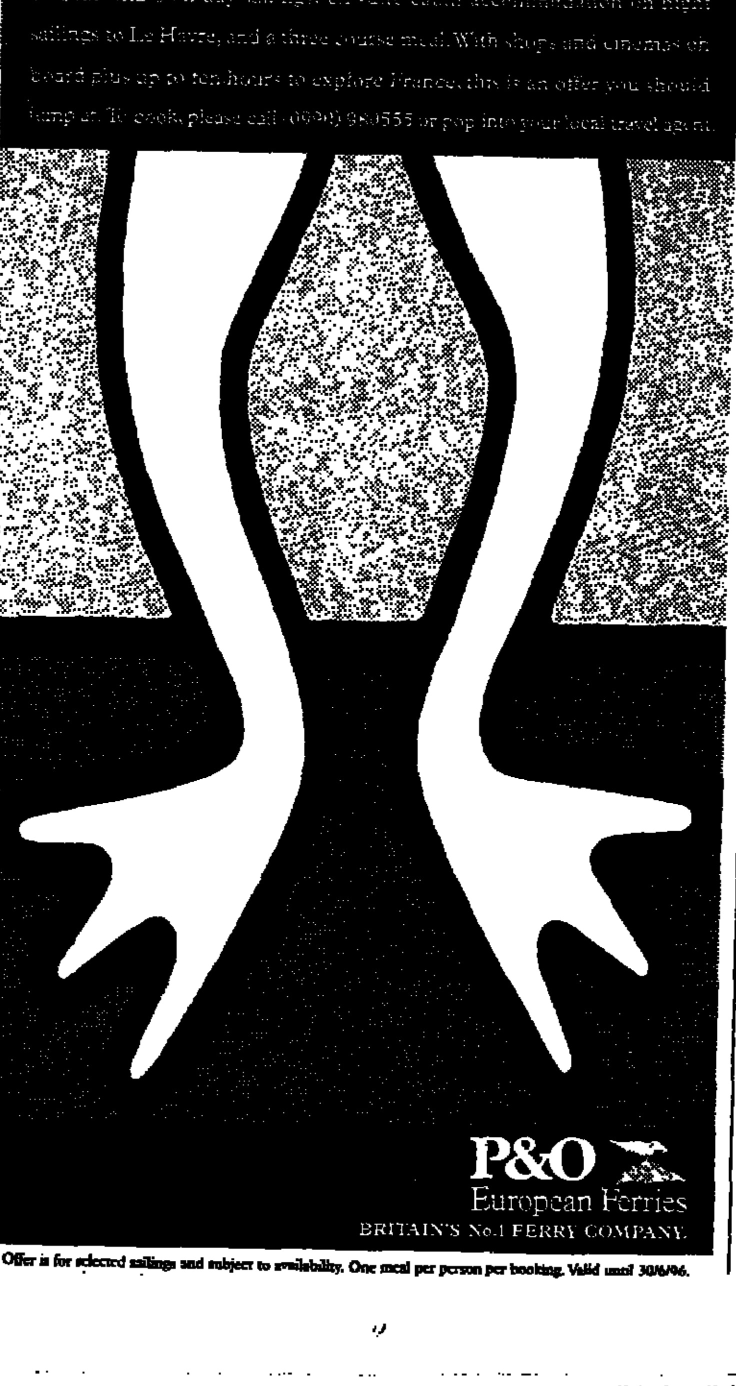

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A friend, Ben Freeth, and I were travelling by foot with mules and donkeys from the Ethiopian highlands to the southern end of Lake Turkana in Kenya. Awarded a travelling fellowship by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, I was on an expedition through a remote area which promised some of the most varied and adventurous country in Africa. For ten weeks we lived a dream, detached from our contemporary existence and witness to a land of magnificent natural beauty and exotic nomadic tribes.

The journey began in the green, densely forested uplands near Jima, where jungle-shrouded hills and valleys are alive with colobus monkeys, birds and butterflies. Towering trees dripped with a soddenness far from our preconceptions of Ethiopian droughts. At times our animals would disappear into mud so thick that they struggled to get free.

Guided by three local men, we picked our way along tiny pathways often concealed by tall grass and on near impossible gradients. Our first attempted route to reach the Omo led us down the Shema River Valley to a remote and eerie leper colony nestling beneath a cliff from which a hot spring waterfall flowed. The lepers believed this water had healing qualities and bathed regularly but, on seeing the extent of some of their deformities, we were not so convinced and were keen to leave as soon as possible.

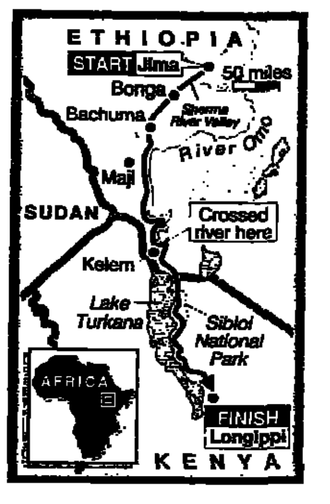
Our guides however, were [illegible] by the lepers that no farther paths existed and refused to travel any farther with us. We were nonetheless determined to try to find a route and continued alone through a band of thick forest to what seemed more encouraging open country. However, after hours forcing passage through a sea of never-ending, razor-sharp elephant grass, we admitted defeat, with no option but to retrace our steps to the highlands.

We then began a ten-day detour with new guides, following paths along an undulating escarpment ridge which afforded some spectacular views over the uninhabited valley 6,000ft below. Eventually, a descending track was found and, with morale high, we entered the lowlands for a second time. It was on reaching the valley floor, with the warning words of the tribesman echoing, that I lay weak with malaria, surrounded by near-naked warriors heavily armed with Kalashnikovs. We were among the nomadic inhabitants of the Omo Valley.

The hot savannah lowlands are home to several tribes who wander the valley with their cattle and who still cling to ancient and, to us, sometimes bizarre traditions. Their societies have been protected from external influence by recent political turmoil and, perhaps more so, by a reputation for savagery that continues to drive fear into their highland neighbours. This reputation is fuelled by regular inter-tribal clashes, where modern automatic weapons have recently replaced Stone Age instruments of war.

Warriors, scarified with ornamental pride for each foe killed in battle, sat expressionless around our camp, content to watch us for hours. We had been advised to travel through this area with an armed escort. However, being armed with only bolt-action rifles, it was no surprise when our three men decided that they had travelled far enough from their highland home and would go no farther.

We were left to fend for ourselves for six weeks as we continued south through the open plains to the west of the river. Wandering through these classic grassland plains, where vast herds of game roam, we felt far from threatened. We enjoyed a genuine solitude, our only concern the hordes of ticks which clung to us by day, and the presence of lions by night.



Only once did the latter pose a serious threat. They startled our animals one night, causing them to stampede right over us as we slept, leaving us with bruises. With the lions roaring, we leapt up to secure the donkeys behind us and watched anxiously as the tawny shapes loitered nearby, their intense eyes gleaming in the torchlight. Fortunately, they remained wary, and as we began to light fires and dazzle them with light, they drifted away into the darkness.

Occasionally we came to a village, consisting of dome-shaped temporary shelters surrounding enclosures for livestock. Here, we would try to buy milk, or a goat to eat as a welcome addition to a basic supply of rice, maize and wheat flour carried with us. Although the inhabitants were instinctively wary of us, we were at no time aware of any real hostility and felt privileged to be among these colourful and fascinating people.

It struck us how vulnerable their valley was to the wind of change which gusts through fragile social, cultural and environmental enclaves throughout the continent. Theirs was a lifestyle on the brink of that change and we could only guess at how long they and the surrounding wildlife would remain unaffected.

Farther south, our journey involved crossing the Omo River. Renowned for its man-eating crocodiles farther north, we were amazed to come to a point where we were assured that crocodiles were never seen. We and our animals swam across unhindered. Now east of the river, the plains became more arid and the character of our journey darkened as our concerns focused increasingly on access to water. The river was impossible to reach, hidden by an impenetrable thicket as it meandered towards Kenya. We had to rely on directions from tribesmen to find water points. As temperatures soared and our animals began to suffer, we took to marching at night under a full moon.

At this stage, illness again took its toll and, with dysentery, we were both stretched to our physical limits, having to walk up to 11 hours a day to reach water.

The animals also found this part of the journey exhausting and, before crossing the border and reaching Lake Turkana, we had lost two donkeys to the harsh desert conditions.

The lake ended our water troubles. With relief we marvelled at the immense body of jade water surrounded, in contrast, by vast desert and stunning lava deposits. The final two weeks made riveting walking as we followed the flamingo-fringed lake shore. The Sibloi National Park teemed with game grazing along a narrow grass belt separating lake from desert, and we were often accompanied by herds of zebra or topi antelope staring in curiosity at our animals.

The fossil riches of the area are well recognised and we noticed fragments of fossilised bone strewn for miles over the black lava fields. In this area live the Turkana, again a people almost unchanged for centuries. Adorned with decorative colour, they lead a frugal existence, tending goats and camels.

Travelling through their timeless and dramatically barren land, our journey drew to an end. Here we felt we had reached a stage where the expedition had evolved from an exciting novelty to a lifestyle which we could have gladly continued indefinitely, echoing the words of T. S. Eliot:

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.

JAMES EGREMONT-LEE

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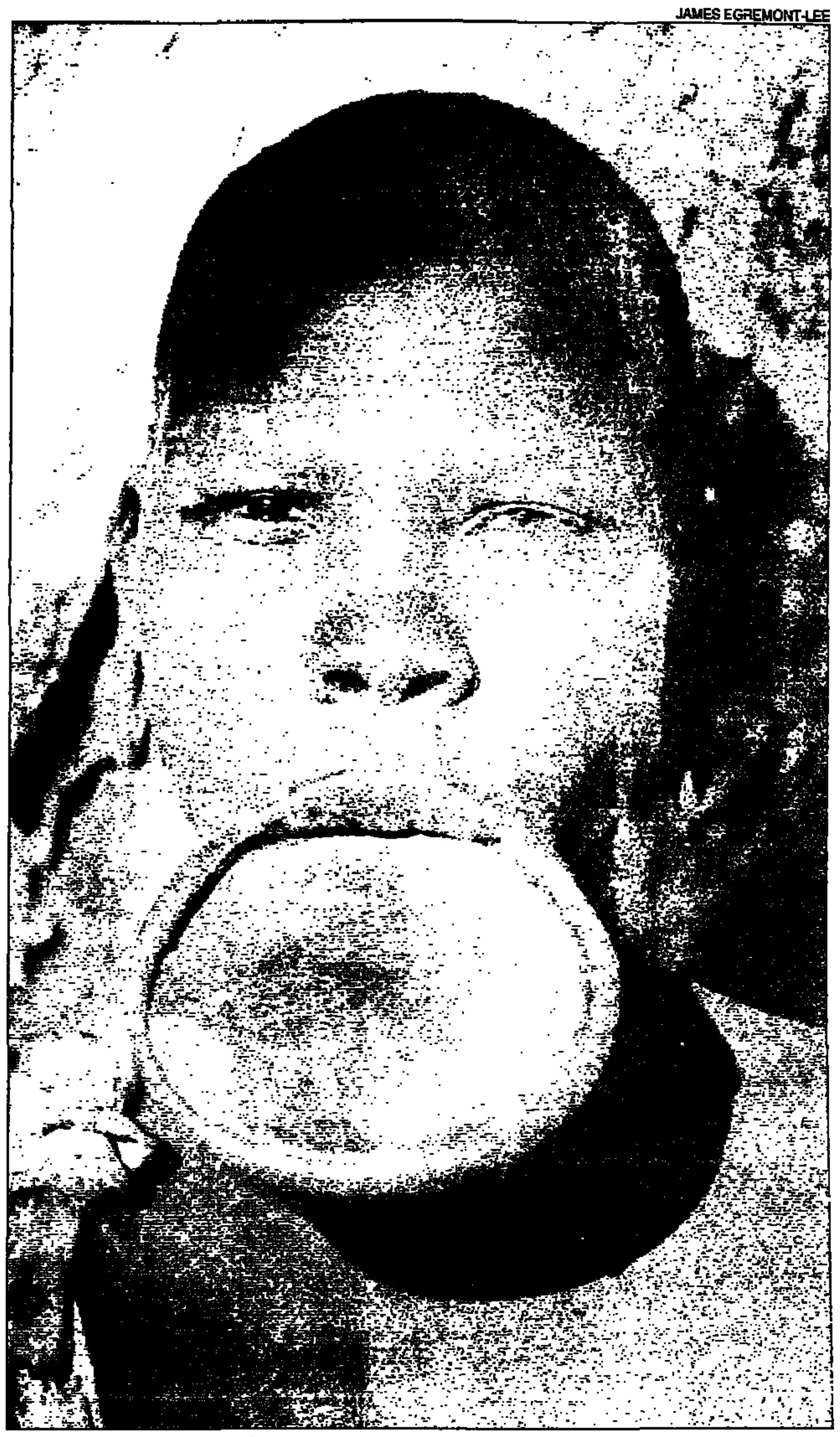

A lip-plated woman from the Mursi tribe, who inhabit the Omo River Valley

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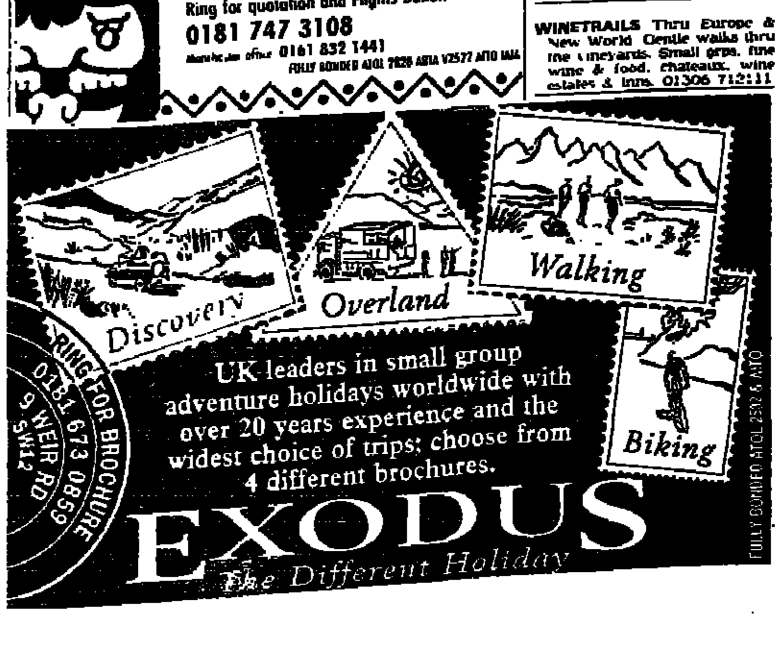
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REFORMED workaholic professional lady mid 40s petite and attractive WLTM genuine intelligent unattached man (45-58) to share leisure interests (music theatre etc.) and generally help me feel alive again. London/SE. Letter and photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 4179

RESCUE needed by 30something princess from her from lonely ivory tower. Could my prince be very dashing, tall, kind, funny, with own castle please. London/SE. Reply with photo to Box No 4337

SMILEY North London professional woman with nearly grown up children wishes to meet good natured, unattached, academically orientated man, 45-50ish, as potential partner. I am attractive and optimistic with many friends and wide-ranging interests. My passions include: Brahms, Chagall, Mozart opera, hills and mountains, Betjeman and my bike. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Write soon! Reply to Box No 4272

SPORTY, attractive lady 37 WLTM genuine, successful professional sporty man 38-45, must like children. Leics./ Rutland. Photo please to Box No 4275

STRIKINGLY feminine, successful, sensuous woman 40, N/S seeks tall, intelligent, sensitive partner in life. Country & cultural pursuits. London/SE. Photo please to Box No 4309

STYLISH, intelligent, very attractive blonde professional, young 45, seeks good-looking, fun-loving, n/s soulmate, 30s-40s. Photo essential (s.a.e. guarantees return). West Surrey. Please Reply to Box No 4147

TENNIS loving attractive intelligent curvey 40 yr old single mother, good cook, loves, walking, travelling, eating out. Looking for a well established unattached 40+ gentleman for companionship & TLC. Londonbased. Please reply with photo to Box No 4168

VERY attractive, sophisticated woman, vivacious, successful with a great love of life seeks equally sophisticated & enthusiastic professional man (45-60) with sense of humour, interested in the arts, travel, & the good things in life. If you wonder why I'm advertising in the personal, write to Box No 4076 to find out. Photo appreciated.

WANTED! The impossible! Sincere, tactile, caring, intelligent, successful man 40-55 with asense of style & humour! I'm tall, attractive, affectionate, loyal, fun and wasted! I adore dogs, town & country pursuits, good company, travel & much more. If you are also genuine, optimistic & have no serious chips, based in the South and interested in the possibility of meeting someone special, please write enclosing photo & tel number to Box No 4228

ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday and Sunday. Call free 0800 141 141.

WARM redhead, 50s, high IQ, low sense of humour WLTM single professional man with GSOH, brains & hair. London/SE. Please Reply to Box No 4054

WELL-EDUCATED, well-travelled mid 40's professional woman WLTM similar male. Attractive, slim brunette. Interests include science, literature and the arts generally, countryside pursuits and travelling. Surrey-based. Recent photograph and letter appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 4095

WIDOW early 50s, many interests, including art, travel, theatre, gardening seeks professional man 50-68 with GSOH. Bucks/Oxon. Photo appreciated. Box No 4259

YOUNG 50 yr old, 5'4", warm, slim, attractive, energetic & intelligent. N/S financially independent, well travelled, no ties, qualitative life style seeks similar for loving & satisfying relationship. Staffs/Cheshire. Photo please to Box No 4306

GENTLEMEN

AFFABLE, handsome, professional male 36 with GSOH, seeks stylish, sophisticated, sensual lady (n/s) with a love of life to share laughter & love and varied interest including travel & the arts. You, like me, will enjoy the finer things in life. Wiltshire based. Please Reply with photo to Box No 4335

ALL I want is a miracle, all I want is you - a 'young' 40 something, slim, attractive, N/S 'lady' (possibly North American but not essential) with a zest for fun and romance. Me? A young 50 something British educated Asian with interests in sport, theatre, good food/wine, Italy. Forecast? Happy days together. London area only please. Recent photo appreciated. Box No 4169

ALMOST Sean Connery Lookalike but with fur on top, tall, slim, gard, linguist, many years overseas, amicably divorced, no baggage. Cambs area based, seeks very attractive petite partner 40-50 with love of music. Photo plse. Box 4263

APPRECIATIVE eyes accompany this articulate, co. director, successfully working in photography throughout the UK. Single, solvent, smart & fun to have around. Circa 1952 own hair & teeth, 67½ inches, currently seeking an curvaceous female social associate 30+ for uncomplicated liaison. Glos/ Worcs./Oxon. Photo appreciated for free professional critique. Box No 4267

ARE you really attractive, 50 or below, elegant, slim, N/S, GSOH, seeking new lifelong partner? If so, this 50's divorced gentleman living in Dorset with some of the above attributes + black Labrador + Aga would love to hear from you with latest picture to Box No 4086

IT is the men we do not take on, that makes us so special The Executive Club.

GENTLEMEN

A SUCCESSFUL kind Scottish based professional guy with style & GSOH is seeking an attractive outdoor girl to spoil on holiday. Must enjoy tennis & other sports, be adventurous but sensible, under 35 & genuinely looking for romance. Recent photo plse to Box 4227

BERKSHIRE based man, professional, intelligent, sincere and affluent, but with a sense of fun, a young 37, N/S. Likes good food & wine, sports cars & skiing. Divorced (no children) WLTM attractive lady 25-35 with similar quality. Photo please to Box No 4300

BUSINESSMAN 42, 6 ft 4ish living in Berkshire would like to meet the right lady with GSOH. To enjoy with me horses/ country pursuits, social events, dining/out, fun & romance. Photo please. Box No 4296

BUSY professional man, medium build, 54, widowed but had very happy and successful marriage. Committed Christian, warm, caring, kind, affectionate, open confident personality, n/s, varied mainly cultural interests particularly music. Based East Midlands. WLTM 40-50 something professional/ business lady of similar qualities. Attractive, feminine with own interests for friendship initially. Recent photo appreciated Good letter & your phone no please. ALA. Please Reply to Box No 3947

DEEP thinking intellectual Hedonist 36, seeks soulmate with sparkle 28 - 38. I'm slim, 5'11", blue eyes with a generous nature. I enjoy travel, theatre, good food and more. Hants/Surrey/Anywhere. Please reply to Box No 4332

DISTINGUISHED Cheshire businessman, 38, tall, dark, down to earth, child/commitment friendly seeks stylish, attractive, somewhat unconventional woman 28-38. Photo if poss. Please reply to Box No 4212

DYNAMIC, romantic and sensitive, good looking man, 42, 6', fit & athletic, very successful, country estate, honest, charming, educated, sportsman, & great fun. Divorced. Has a brilliant life but would like to share it with a truly special wonderfully attractive lady. Midlands. Photo please. Box No 4271

ENGLISH gentleman, 5'10", 47, professional, attractive and affluent into cooking, antiques and the country seeks honest, loyal and sincere, younger lady for like minded pursuits, friendship, romance and possible marriage. Surrey, Sussex area. Photo please to Box No 4209

ENGLISH gentleman would like to meet lady, preferably, of Japanese, Persian or Middle Eastern background. Interests in cultural and English conversation France, travel, the Arts and sporting events. Please reply to Box No 4130

55/65 female, fit, free (kids, job, animals), n/s, who plays tennis, skis, loves opera & would live in SW France & SW London (+graduate?, + linguist?, + pianist?) Plse Reply to Box 4139

ENTERTAINING, wealthy property developer, very presentable, late 50's enjoys fun, travel, skiing, golf & bridge. WLTM slim, stylish & sincere sexy blonde with some mutual interests to love & to spoil on long term basis.London/ Sussex. Photo please. Box No 4243

FINANCIALLY secure international businessman (35) with homes in both the UK and USA seeks an in shape, drop dead, female, 24-32 who knows how to handle herself and what she wants. Photo, tel no and details to Box No 4221

GOOD-LOOKING, good natured, sociable prof man (41) divorced, based central London, interests include languages, travel, dancing & the Arts generally, seeks slim attractive French, German, Italian or Spanish lady under 36 for genuine relationship. Plse write with photo Box 4114

GOOD-LOOKING successful generous businessman, aged 43, WLTM a feminine sophisticated lady who has the type of looks to turn heads in a crowded restaurant - for dining out, theatre & weekends away. Recent photo & tel number ensures reply. Reply to Box No 4191

HANDSOME, very successful, Yorkshire based businessman. Early 30's, 6 ft, very fit. Honest and sincere. Many trappings of great success in chosen career, but longing for that special someone. Seeking a very attractive, slim, successful lady to compliment me. To become a special friend and maybe more. Photograph essential. Please reply to Box No 4301

HANDSOME professional, 29, interests include horse riding, the arts, skiing and travel. Articulate, warm and sensitive personality. Seeks lady for friendship and romance. London and S/SE. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 4087

HANDSOME, strong, dependable. Successful prof. male 40, seeks attractive, intelligent female for fun, love & laughter. Based Nr. Oxford. Photo please. Box No 4134

I'D like a wife and children too: To cherish, All my life through. Could she be you? Gosh, I'm 52! Reply with photo to Box 4231

INDIAN, 40, tall, good looking and successful City professional with a sense of fun. I have wide interests from fitness to personal development. Reestablishing myself in London I would like to meet a real and special woman. Reply to Box No 4294

INDIVIDUALISTIC London-based male, 39, tall, good-looking and successful and interested in forties films. Rock music, sport and Champagne seeks attractive female 30-39. Photo please. Box No 4137

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LARGELY unassuming millionaire businessman, divorced, early 40's, very presentable, multi-locational lifestyle, looks forward to meeting early 30's adventurous, independent, intelligent, stylish, sensuous, siren for our first lunch or dinner date soon. South. Photo essential. Reply to Box No 4241

LET'S do it, let's fall in love'. Tall, charismatic, good looking man 38, N/S, intelligent, solvent & successful - no dependents, seeks an elegant, sensuous, sophisticated woman, 28-40 with warm, wit and joie d'vivre for the real thing. London/Hants. Letter & photo please. Reply to Box No 4321

LONDON SW3 happy professional, 54, 6', N/S, GSOH, enjoys town, country & sea, seeks gorgeous London based lady in early 40's for friendship & fun. Reply with photo please to Box No 4224

LOVE-STARVED widower. Surrey country house, London PR office, N/S Piscean romantic, traveller, sportsman, bridge-hand, gourmet, arts lover, socialiser WLTM sparky, pretty, slim, 45-65 tactile, successful career girl for long term fun & future. Photo vital. Please Reply to Box No 4295

LOVING and caring widower 60's with many interests seeks slim glamorous lady 45-55 for relationship/marriage. London/Midlands. Letter with photo please. Box No 4289

MAIDSTONE 5'10", 12st Co. Director N/S comfortable lifestyle, happy nature, enjoys Town Country, Garden, Music, warm holidays. Reached 50, discovered all is nothing without love. Seeks slim, slightly younger, romantic female smart happy feminine. Photo please to Box No 4216

MIDLANDS - professional 36, sporty, likes travel, country life and fun seeks similar lady n/s 25-38 photo please to Box 4183

NICE guy, 43, 5'10", likes fun, conversation, soft rock music. WLTM attractive, positive lady mid 30s to share happiness & good life style. Southeast. Reply with photo to Box No 4286

OVERWEIGHT, over aged, and probably over the hill, in need of rescue. Also solvent, successful and serious. London and West Country Box No 4132

POLISH background, single gentleman, 39, enjoys travelling, dancing, walks, cinema seeks a sincere lady with similar interests. Photo plse. Box No 4326

PROFESSIONAL chap, grad, 37 yrs young, 6ft, athletic.very fit, considered attractive. Enjoys laughing, being with friends & occasionally overindulging. London/SE. All replies answered. Box No 4060

PROFESSIONAL, educated, attractive, caring, fun, 30's, comfortable Manchester based tall bachelor seeks tall similar lady with a view to marriage and children. Photo with letter please. Box No 4334

PROFESSIONAL gent, 45, varied interests seeks lady for friendship/possible romance. N/England/S/Scotland Photo appreciated. Discretion assured. Please reply to Box No 4012

READING man, 31, warm hearted, down to earth, romantic, curry & classical music fan. GSOH. WLTM attractive, professional lady. N/S. 24-30, for intelligent conversation and humorous time Photo please Please reply to Box No 4187

ROMANTIC, independent, successful guy, good physique, exceptional lifestyle. WLTM intelligent, attractive woman 36/45 for sharing good times & more. London area. Photo appreciated. Box No 4217

SOLO sailor male 60 seeks female crew for weekend cruising. Must be fit, active, N/S. Photo appr. West London/ Surrey/Hants. Box 4264

SOUTH COAST. Tall Good Looking Director mid-40's WLTM an Attractive, Slim and Stylish Professional Lady between 30-45 who possesses a very GSOH and likes to enjoy life to the full. Photo and Tel. no appreciated. Reply Box 4135

SPANISH 50 yr N/S romantic male, SOH, caring, likes sports, theatre, antiques. Lives in Dorset. Much love to give to that special person. Plse reply, you will not regret it. Box No 4340

SPRING is just around the corner - where are you? Successful managing director, 40, tall, attractive, amusing, sophisticated, eligible, travelled WLTM slim, stylish, sexy, sincere, sunny, sparky unforgetable lady 28+ who's seeking a great friend & long term partner, to share 1st class lifestyle, very wide interests & Life's little adventures. London/Counties. Photo appreciated. Box 4105

TALL attractive professional! Oh yes! but is he honest, genuine, solvent, ready to settle down and good enough to join the Executive Club?

TALL, handsome, fun-loving, virile, hunk, 38 who's successful, professional, intelligent, genuine nice guy. Seeks attractive, n/s, classy, curvy, wicked fox in black seams and high heels to lavish with romantic attention! 30-45. Photo essential. Berks/London area. Box 4333

TALL, lovable, chauvinist, 37, seeks slim, intelligent, fun-loving, attractive, central London lady 27 to 37. Box No 4287

TOYBOY 26, educated, attractive, tactile and romantic with GSOH. I am seeking a similar older lady who prefers the company of a younger man for 1-1 relationship. Photo appreciated. London/Southeast. Please Reply to Box No 4088

VERY handsome professional man 36, tall, slim, dark haired, friendly, honest & romantic seeks lovely lady for lasting romance. London/ Surrey/ Hants. Reply to Box No 4323

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LATE 60's or 70ish lady, preferably slim petite build sought by slightly younger man for gentle special relationship. Surrey/ Kent area. Box No 4035

LAWYER, forties, wishing to escape the chilly exile of single life, seeks a return to civilized living with a warm, bright and humorous professional woman, with or without designer children. Photo please London area Reply to Box No 3891

LONDON,NW3. Tall, healthy, kind writer/thinker, 50, with taste for Ireland/Beckett, Sartre/Ravel, train travels, radio, walks, talk, laughter WLTM like-minded, dark-haired 38 + woman for lasting closeness. ALA Box No 3862

LONDONER 56 yrs 5'10", divorced, interests travel, sailing WLTM N/S female to share the good times. Please Reply with photo to Box No 3871

MILDLY amusing male professional 48, tall, unattached, enjoys travel, golf, theatre & most music seeks woman 35-55 to romance. ALA. London/SE. Please Reply to Box No 3917

NO PROBLEMS, just lonely! Divorced, good job, OK looking unpretentious and caring guy, early 40's, would like to meet a pretty petite lady from West Midlands/Warwickshire to love and settle down with. Please write with photo to Box No 3890

NOTTINGHAM professional, thoughtful, creative, widower, tall, N/S, 40's. Local responses only please. Box No 3780

PERCEPTIVE, travelled, Scottish gentleman (53) divorced, London, welfare field, needs attractive, caring lady (possibly single parent). American interests appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 3724

PROFESSIONAL man, 46, Berks/Oxon, N/S, with dry SOH, seeks out of the ordinary lady 35/45, who enjoys walking, countryside, dining out, for friendship. Box No 4008

ROMANCE-STARVED man in N. Bucks, 57, tallish, good-humoured & intelligent, WLTM lady of similar disposition for warm and lasting relationship. Please Reply to Box No 3741

SEEKING romance? 6 ft slim, director, successful, mid forties graduate, skier/active sports, GSOH, N/S, solvent Seeks that special person 30-40 Photo please. West Yorks. Please Reply to Box No 4021

SPECIAL Lady, warm, slim and intelligent wanted for happy times & crew (when sunny) by genuine, professional unattached solvent 6 ft graduate 40, enjoying - skiing & sailing. London/Surrey. Please Reply with photo to Box No 3884

TURKISH DELIGHT 27, good looking & athletic male ready to be consumed by fun-loving and witty female. Please Reply to Box No 3788

VALENTINE'S DAY pass you by too, tall, slim, prof young 42, easy going, optomistic seeks attractive, slim lady with SOH. Chemistry more important than age. Interests including skiing, sailing, travel, theatre etc. E. Anglia/London. Photo appreciated. Box No 3996

WARM-HEARTED chief executive (42) London based, fond of laughter & log fires, seeks soulmate (26-40). Photo appreciated but not essential. Please Reply to Box No 3918

WHERE are you, my special friend? I'm 35, Northants based, love sport & travel, seeking 30-40 bright, fun, energetic lady. Please reply with a photo to Box No. 3907

WIDOWER 60's, enjoys travel home and abroad, eating out, country walks. Seeks that special lady (tall, slim, N/S) to share the good things in life. Yorks/Derby/Notts. Please Reply to Box No 3858

YOUTHFUL 66, retired Cambridge engineer living Rutland. Country & cultural pursuits seeks intelligent, loving lady 55-60. Reply to Box No 3719

GAY man, 38, Greek, living in Athens, 5'9", dark greying hair, good looking, loves books, literature, history, the Arts, travelling, is looking for friends in UK. Letters and/or visits. Age and nationality are of no importance. Box No 4343

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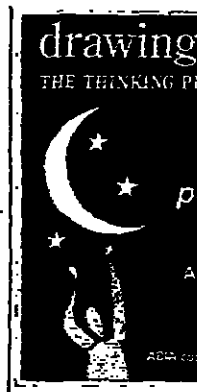

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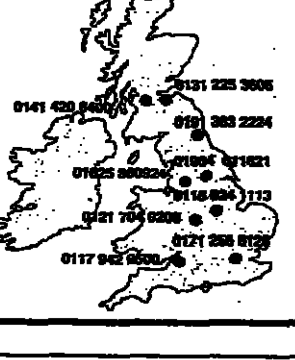

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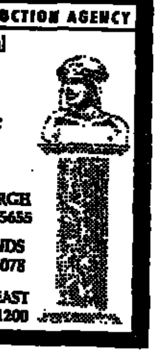

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1=Clearly Agree, 2= Slightly Agree, 3= Neutral, 4= Slightly Disagree, 5= Clearly Disagree

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Common interests are more important than romantic love.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. I enjoy the company of the opposite sex more than that of my own.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Physical contact is an important form of communication	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. I have to know someone for a long time before I can trust them.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. I have pleasant memories of my childhood.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6. The man should pay for everything on a date.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
7. It's fun to surprise my friends with small gifts.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
8. Worrying too much about money spoils happiness.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
9. A strong relationship must include a good sex life.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
10. I believe in telling people if I think they are making a mistake.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

MULTIPLE CHOICE - Circle best answer or answers.

I. I prefer socialising and dating members of the opposite sex whose age range is a) 18-25 b)25-35 c)36-49 d)over 50	a b c d
II. I am currently a) single b) divorced c) widowed d) separated e) eligible to meet and date socially	a b c d e
III. My annual income this year will be a)under 15k b) 15-25k c) 25-35k d) 35-50k e) over 50k	a b c d e

What are the three most important characteristics that you look for in members of the opposite sex?
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GAMES

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THIS WEEK I conclude my coverage of the fascinating match between Kasparov and IBM's Deep Blue computer. Given the computer's ability to see over 500 million moves per second, one might compare this match to a weightlifting contest between a human and a fork-lift truck. In this case, though, the human won.

With game five, the world champion at long last moved into the lead, but only after he had offered a draw and the computer had declined. I have often advanced the theory that the existence of the draw in chess will be a tremendous barrier to computers ever demolishing human champions. The best human players are capable of playing perfectly in certain situations, so, in order to win, computers (or their human handlers) will occasionally be obliged to take risks.

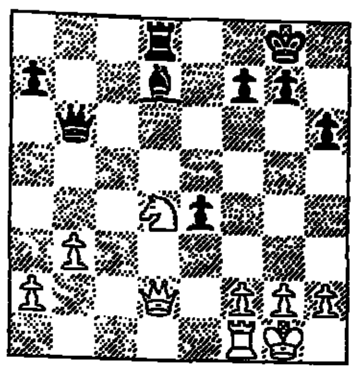
That is exactly what occurred in this game. The IBM team, following consultation with their grandmaster assistant, Joel Benjamin, decided to decline Kasparov's offer. Unfortunately for the computer, White had no real advantage, and during the middlegame Deep Blue, bereft of an obvious plan, began aimlessly moving its queen backwards and forwards. Kasparov swiftly seized his opportunity, hurled forwards his kingside pawn and smashed through White's defences.

White: Deep Blue
Black: Kasparov
Philadelphia, Feb 1996
Scotch Game

1	e4	e5	2	Nf3	Nf6
3	Nc3	Nc6	4	d4	exd4
5	Nxd4	Bb4	6	Nxc6	bxc6
7	Bd3	d5	8	exd5	exd5
9	0-0	0-0	10	Bg5	c6
11	Qf3	Be7			

This bishop retreat, prevents Bxf6 shattering Kasparov's pawns. A similar pawn structure weakness had cost him the first game.

12	Rae1	Re8	13	Ne2	h6
14	Bf4	Bd6	15	Nd4	Bg4
16	Qg3	Bxf4	17	Qxf4	Qb6
18	c4	Bd7	19	cxd5	cxd5
20	Rxe8+	Rxe8	21	Qd2	Ne4
22	Bxe4	dxe4	23	b3	Rd8



Here Kasparov offered the draw that was refused. This was unwise, since Black has fully equalised and even has some slight pressure against White's knight on d4.

"We were surprised by the offer so early in the game," said the IBM team-leader C.J. Tan. But experts saw no winning chances for Deep Blue. "We searched our souls and found scientists and not chess players," he said. "We wanted to continue the experiment."

Over the following few moves, Kasparov, to his surprise, succeeded in confusing Deep Blue. Frederic Friedel, a chess computer expert, and consultant to Kasparov, diagnosed that Deep Blue had encountered a position that it had failed to understand. "Our job for the next few years is to find other positions that the computer doesn't understand," he concluded.

24	Qc3	f5	25	Rd1	Be6
26	Qe3	Bf7	27	Qc3	f4

White's queen-shuffling gives Kasparov an opportunity.

28	Rd2	Qf6	29	g3	Rd5
30	a3	Kh7	31	Kg2	Qe5
32	f3	e3	33	Rd3	e2

Black's majority on the king's flank has led to the creation of a passed pawn which now costs White a piece. The rest is easy.

34	gxf4	e1Q	35	fxe5	Qxe3
36	Rxe3	Rxd4	37	b4	Bc4
38	Kf2	g5	39	Re3	Be6
40	Rc3	Bc4	41	Re3	Rd2+
42	Ke1	Rd3	43	Kf2	Kg6
44	Rxd3	Bxd3	45	Ke3	Bc2
46	Kd4	Kf5	47	Kd5	h5

White resigns.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

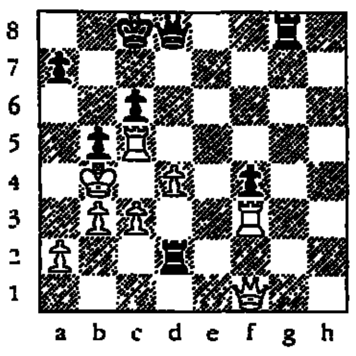
This position is from the game Syverson - Podgorny, Germany 1933.

The white king is dangerously exposed on the queenside. How did Black capitalise in fine style? Black to play.

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Rxf6

Last week's winners: A D Scott, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex; K Thomas, Aberystwyth, Dyfed; A Mercado, Hornchurch, Essex.



PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right). The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions
on a postcard with your name
and address to: Cartoon caption (99),
Weekend Games Page,
The Times, 1 Pennington Street,
London E1 9XN

The editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, March 13.

SOCIETIES WE ADMIRE (BUT DO NOT BELONG TO).—No. 7.
THE LEAGUE FOR THE RESCUE OF NERVOUS AND ELDERLY PERSONS FROM LONDON TRAFFIC.

"Darling . . . have you seen our pet tarantula?"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Mr K. W. Davis, of Farnham, Surrey

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AMPERSAND
a. An ampere^{1000}
b. And
c. Predecessor of blotting paper

VIZ
a. A typeface
b. A masking letter
c. Namely

BASSARID
a. A foxy bacchanal
b. A female bass
c. A helmet crest

FAVELA
a. A young deer
b. Red-hot lava
c. A slum shack

Answers on page 20

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

IT IS as a writer that Terence Reese will be most remembered. He wrote more than 80 books on the game, including such classics as *Reese on Play* (1948), *The Expert Game* (1958) and *Play Bridge with Reese* (1960). The latter two came out when I was at university and I remember the excitement they generated in our bridge group. This quote from *Reese on Play* is still an admirable summary of what matters in good bridge: "Ability to execute brilliant coups counts for very little compared with the consistent effort to follow what is going on among all four hands; how the cards are distributed and where the tricks are coming from."

This is a hand from *The Expert Game*, in the chapter called "Hold it!", which is about keeping control of critical side-suits. I give it as a defensive problem. You are West defending Four Spades. Reese doesn't give the bidding, merely stating that "after showing long diamonds, South played in Four Spades". A possible auction:

S	W	N	E
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Contract: Four Spades by South.
Lead: queen of hearts

North:
♠A43
♥K65
♦4
♣AJ10763

West:
♠762
♥QJ104
♦A852
♣94

You lead the queen of hearts, which holds, and continue hearts. Declarer follows again and trumps the third round with the ten of spades. South now plays the king of diamonds. How do you defend?

South almost certainly has a four-card spade suit and six diamonds. If you take the ace of diamonds he will be in control to draw trumps and run the diamonds, making four tricks in spades, five in diamonds and one in clubs. Even if you get that far, it isn't easy to see what you should do. You must duck, and duck the diamond continuation. Then your partner ruffs the third round of diamonds. This is the full deal.

North:
♠A43
♥K65
♦4
♣AJ10763

West:
♠762
♥QJ104
♦A852
♣94

East:
♠985
♥A983
♦93
♣KQ82

South:
♠KQJ10
♥72
♦KQJ1076
♣5

Reese and Boris Schapiro defended this hand in the Masters Pairs (*The Expert Game* doesn't reveal which way round they sat).

West did duck the king of diamonds, and the queen, and East ruffed the third round. Now East completed a great defence by playing a fourth round of hearts.

A trump or a club would have enabled South to ruff out the ace of diamonds and draw trumps. But after the heart South was helpless — he could not both establish the diamonds and draw trumps.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

IN GAMING terms, 1996 could prove to be the year of pinball overkill as producers scramble to clamber aboard the latest cult bandwagon. The revival of *Tommy*, the Who's rock opera from 1969, opened at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Tuesday, bringing in its wake a clutch of early titles. Tommy, of course, is the deaf, dumb and blind kid turned pinball wizard.

Released by Maxis in America as **Full Tilt!**, but in Britain as **Pinball 95**, this game only runs on Windows 95. The three tables, each of which is viewed in its entirety on one screen, include an updated version of **Space Cadet**, which was in the Microsoft Plus! companion for Windows 95. It accommodates up to four players in relay.

Sierra's **3D Ultra Pinball Outpost Odyssey** is a little less demanding, and comes on Mac and PC CD-Rom (for Windows 3.1 and later versions). But its claims of moving pinball gaming into a new dimension are tommy-rot: the tables are a fiddle and, certainly in the case of the review copy, sound effects are noticeable only by their absence.

Instead, the pick of the current pinball bunch has to be Virgin Interactive's **Tilt**, which puts a spin on the genre by injecting energy and excitement into the gameplay. The six colourful tables are well designed and players feel that they, as much as the ball, are being thrown around thanks to fast-changing, zooming viewing angles. The sound effects and music scores are further treats in this solid and engaging title.

The problem of all too many computer pintables is their lack of flair. **Dragon's Fury** and **Dragon's Revenge**, originally from Tengen, are old Sega Mega Drive titles, but their originality and ability to come to life is still to be bettered. In addition to flicking and flipping balls at static objects, these tables are swarming with other moving targets — miniature warriors and attacking birds — and in triggering "specials" you are led to new inner tables.

Tengen's games came out three or four years ago and, since then, we should have been treated to an abundance of mesmerising new ideas such as, perhaps, musical tables in which hitting different targets triggers successive rhythms and melodies in ever-changing musical styles and moods.

Few companies have released more pinball titles in the last two years than 21st Century, though only its more recent games have been worth buying. However, by the summer the company plans to release the **Pinball Construction Kit**, which will at least allow players to design their own tables from more than 60 basic themes.

A *Tommy* revival fuels pinball mania

The official Tommy spin-off is due shortly from Interplay. **Tommy: The Interactive Adventure**, on PC and Mac CD-Rom, is an interactive exploration of the opera, featuring album, movie and theatre show snippets as well as lyrics, interviews and other memorabilia to please those hankering for the nitty-gritty low-down of the rock product 27 years on. Alternatively, Ken Russell's bleak movie of the opera is out on CDi and stars Ann-Margaret, Roger Daltrey, Oliver Reed, Jack Nicholson and, by far the best thing in it, Elton John's timeless Pinball Wizard performance.

Also on CDi is **The Who — Thirty Years of Maximum R&B Live** which features 28 live Who performances, although not all of them are especially well known.

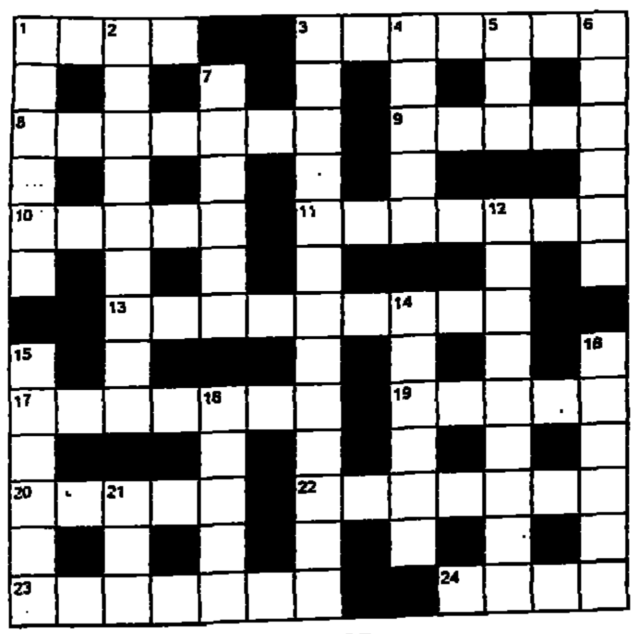
Elton John is one of the 70 artists featured on MTV Unplugged. From Viacom New Media on PC and Mac CD-Rom, this is a disappointing database hooked into the channel's acoustic TV series. You can access resumés of artists, details of their appearances on the show and even hear a few familiar song chords. Some complete performances can also be played, but invariably not the ones you'd most like to hear such as, say, Elton's.

Unveiling Cyberspace Twenty-Two should be music to your ears as you learn that we have three excellent Logitech scanners to be won. First prize is the company's top-of-the-range PageScan Color, which can be used as a hand-held scanner or, for best results, works as a self-feeding device with documents up to A4 size. Second prize is a ScanMan Color and third prize is a ScanMan 256, colour and black-and-white hand-held scanners respectively. All come with editing software allowing you simply to plug in and start scanning anything from favourite photographs to logos, maps and documents.

To enter Cyberspace Twenty-Two you must write a treatment for a suitable new movie to be made by Ken Russell. Entries must be between 150 and 250 words, include your name, age, address and home telephone number and be sent to: Cyberspace Twenty-Two, Computer Games, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You may also fax entries on 0171-729 6791. The competition is open to all ages and the judges will not enter into additional correspondence.

"From you I get opinions. From you I get the story." *Tommy* (1969).

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 725

ACROSS
1 Richard I successor (4)
3 Feeble, soft person (7)
8 Communist philosophy (7)
9 Brittle, sharp (5)
10 Non-ordained church members (5)
11 Posy (7)
13 Explosive, used in Plot (9)
17 Up to date; alongside (7)
19 Give birth (to animal, small iceberg) (5)
20 Come to fruition (5)
22 Dishevelled (7)
23 Secrecy (7)
24 Bash away at keyboard (4)

DOWN
1 Confusion; unwanted items (6)
2 Precursor (9)
3 Decisive juncture (6,2,5)
4 Site, position (5)
5 Indian honorific; — Lanka (3)
6 Sailor friend of Olive Oyl (6)
7 One from Tripoli (6)
12 Soft (service) hat; stone me! (9)
14 To clean (car engine) (6)
15 Sea-mammal; type of moustache (6)
16 Spirit; quality of character (6)
18 Make void (5)
21 Edgar Allen — (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 724
ACROSS: 5 Eiffel 7 Hoodoo 9 Handball 11 Clan 12 Toner 13 Decant 15 Uganda 17 Vaunt 19 Dame 20 Milliner 22 Casket 23 Bunyan
DOWN: 1 Red-hot 2 Plea 3 Shelve 4 Boon 6 Fun and games 8 Delinquency 10 Byron 14 Civil 16 Demote 18 Tyrant 19 Dock 21 Lobe

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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

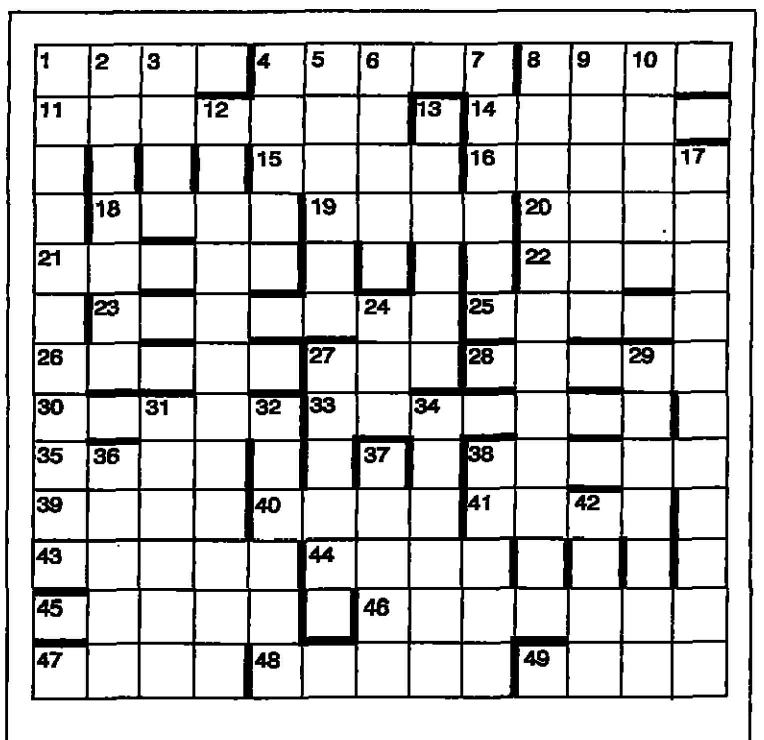
No 3348: Pay In The End by Owzat

STARTING from the top row, 10 words (51 squares) positionally represent an expedition. There's little problem initially (three items, unclued), something admittedly revolutionary (one item, to be shaded), varyingly unstable but not unworkable transport (three items to be shaded) and the final row is completely unchecked (three items, unclued). Two unclued lights are not normal words. Letters not cross-checked in unclued lights make PET MAP.

Finally, two five-letter answers (one a down word, followed by another across) should separately be arranged into the actual destination and placed below the grid. *Chambers 1993* is recommended but does not have one place-name and one proprietary name.

ACROSS
11 Discs about would mostly stimulate like stink (7)
14 Baked crab? (5)
15 To the whole of Canadian province, a letter of protest (4)
16 A yard behind, Fuzzy was on a roll (5)
18 Bankrupt not without a bob once (4)
19 Chef's thickening (4)
20 Boycott, perhaps is king in local area (4)
21 Divers try to introduce uncertainty like splits (5)
22 Triple crown for England in sport (4)
23 It's put last in designating language? (7)
25 Seedy club also about right (5)
26 "Sole" without its final letter is a coin! (5)
27 Sped out of bounds — then bole in one (3)
28 Spirit is strong in game (5)
30 Pants! (5)
33 Clean bowled guy hanging around (7)
35 Regularly very dense cyclones have them (4)
38 More must pedal (5)
39 Doris's tongue is cutting in informal conversation (4)
40 Large fish in shed is mottled (4)
41 Ham backing off satellite (4)
43 Young person is involved with Tory party briefly (5)
44 Lure learner into theory of everything (4)
45 She sculpted precious metal for 21 pounds (5)
46 Africans once near entrance to Jo'burg in stories (7)

DOWN
1 They manage compliance, not running pricey cars? (11)
2 Labour Editor following one to the right (7, 2 words)
3 Strip cartoon has cat blown away (4)
4 Score twice with nothing for Romania — could be this (5)
5 Land-holding recurring oddly without record (6)
6 Escape clutching at sword (5)
7 Present line accepted practice (6)
8 Chooses to turn up in job, not a word in advance (12)
9 Bent shoot restricts winter brier (6)
10 City of Japanese drink? (one's for another!) (5)
12 Body tires badly, no good with skipping ropes (12)
13 Drop dead almost after turn (6)
17 Such is power abused (caught by outcries on Sun?) (11, 2 words)
24 Kill in New York for lolly (3)
27 Ace boyfriend admits number attached (6)
29 Obstacles could have caused sore arm (7)
31 Can you discover Indonesian in question? Without question! (6)
32 One's knocked up with mix of lemon, turning out round? (6)
34 Will love fiercely (6)
36 Unknown Australian twice caught by a West Indian evergreen (5)
37 Dickie runs into many different types (5)
38 Order seat on Northern Line (5)
42 King out of harmony once in uprising (4)



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3348

In association with CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

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ADDRESS..........

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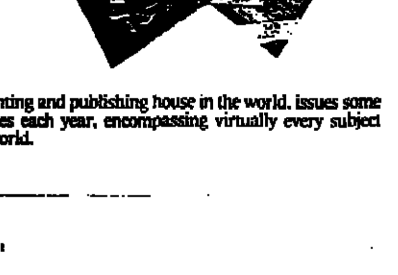
Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3348, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, March 21 .

The winner will receive: The Cambridge Encyclopedia, the most up-to-date and comprehensive one-volume encyclopedia available, with over 36,000 entries; **The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language**, a highly illustrated format embracing every aspect of the English language in one volume; and **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**, covering all the major writers and movements in literature written in English up to the present. Two runners-up will receive **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**.

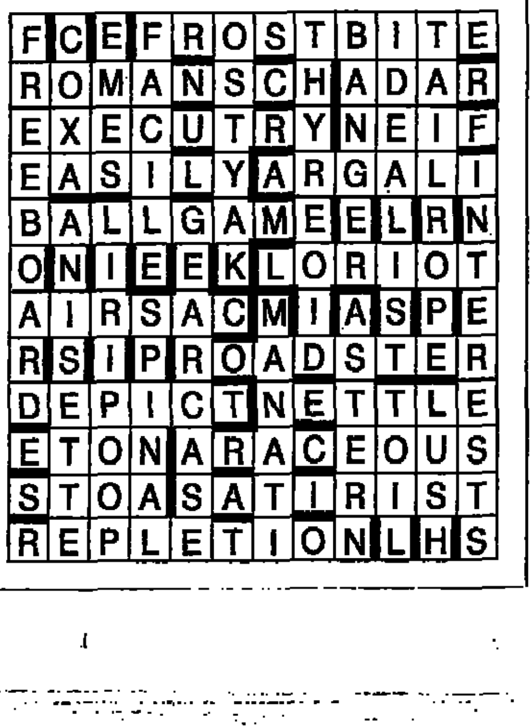


Cambridge University Press, the oldest printing and publishing house in the world, issues some 1,500 new publications in over 190 countries each year, encompassing virtually every subject seriously studied in the English-speaking world.

Solution to No 3345: Double Fault

ACROSS
4 molar = polar
10 woods = words
11 h/ound
12 wall = will
13 pa/led
14 pail = pain
15 m/ars
17 food = foot
21 bread = breed
22 h/at
26 b/rine
27 tender = render
28 natty = nasty
31 g/et
32 ne/ts
33 lo/ts
34 t/elling
35 p/a

DOWN
1 lane = land
2 prin/ce
3 th/ong
4 adapt = adept
5 morel/s
6 paris = pavis
7 o/man
8 r/ed
9 hand = hind
16 bikes = likes
18 ther/e
19 wig = rig
20 sprat = spray
23 s/lowing
24 li/on
25 l/ie
29 lega/l
30 tal/e



F	C	E	F	R	O	S	T	B	I	T	E
R	O	M	A	N	S	C	H	A	D	A	R
E	X	E	C	U	T	R	Y	N	E	I	F
E	A	S	I	L	Y	A	R	G	A	L	I
B	A	L	L	G	A	M	E	E	L	R	N
O	N	I	E	E	K	L	O	R	I	O	T
A	I	R	S	A	C	M	I	A	S	P	E
R	S	I	P	R	O	A	D	S	T	E	R
D	E	P	I	C	T	N	E	T	T	L	E
E	T	O	N	A	R	A	C	E	O	U	S
S	T	O	A	S	A	T	I	R	I	S	T
R	E	P	L	E	T	I	O	N	L	H	S

The winner is Sheila M. Mann, of Edinburgh.
The runners up are J. V. Boys, of Broadstone, Dorset; and P. W. Howorth, of Newcastle upon Tyne.

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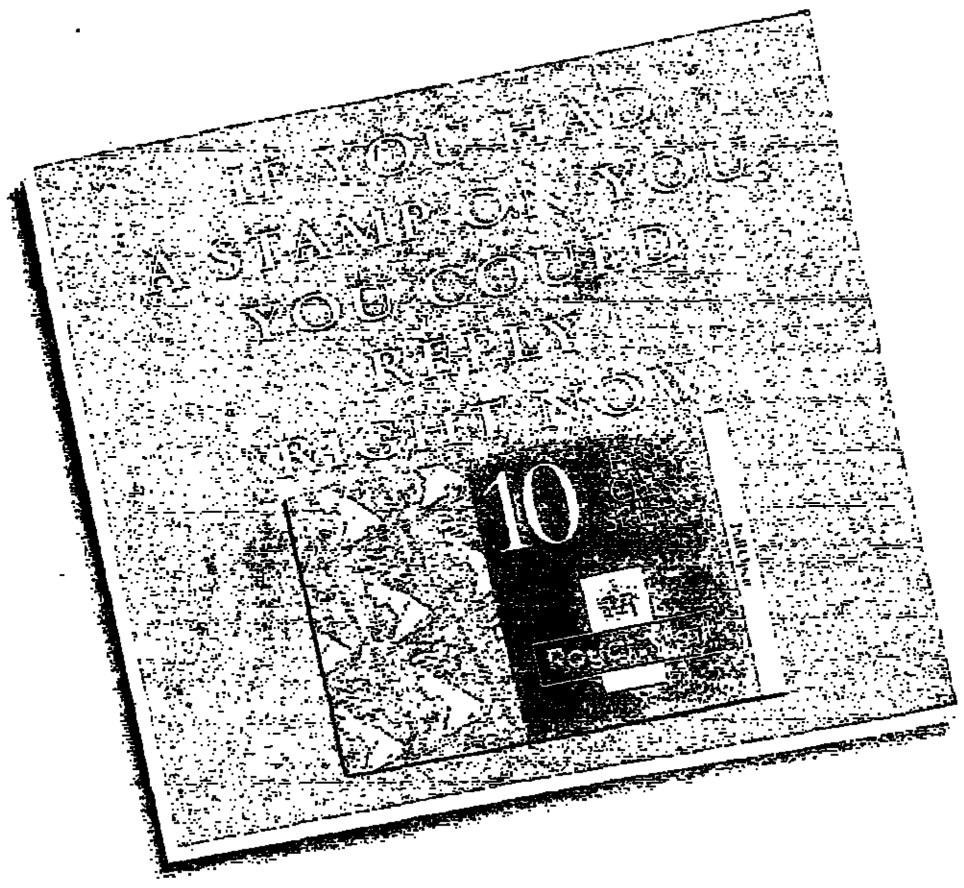


Royal Mail

هكذا من الأصل

مكبر من الاصل

Daredevil whose car goes up in a puff of smoke

Page 7

CAR 96

Cars that forever blow little bubbles

Page 10

SATURDAY MARCH 9 1996

Vaughan Freeman finds the Formula One fans gearing up for the new season

Grand passions in the living room

The eyes are as steely as Michael Schumacher's in the seconds before he blasts off the grid and into the danger of the first high-speed bend in the grand prix at Melbourne tomorrow.

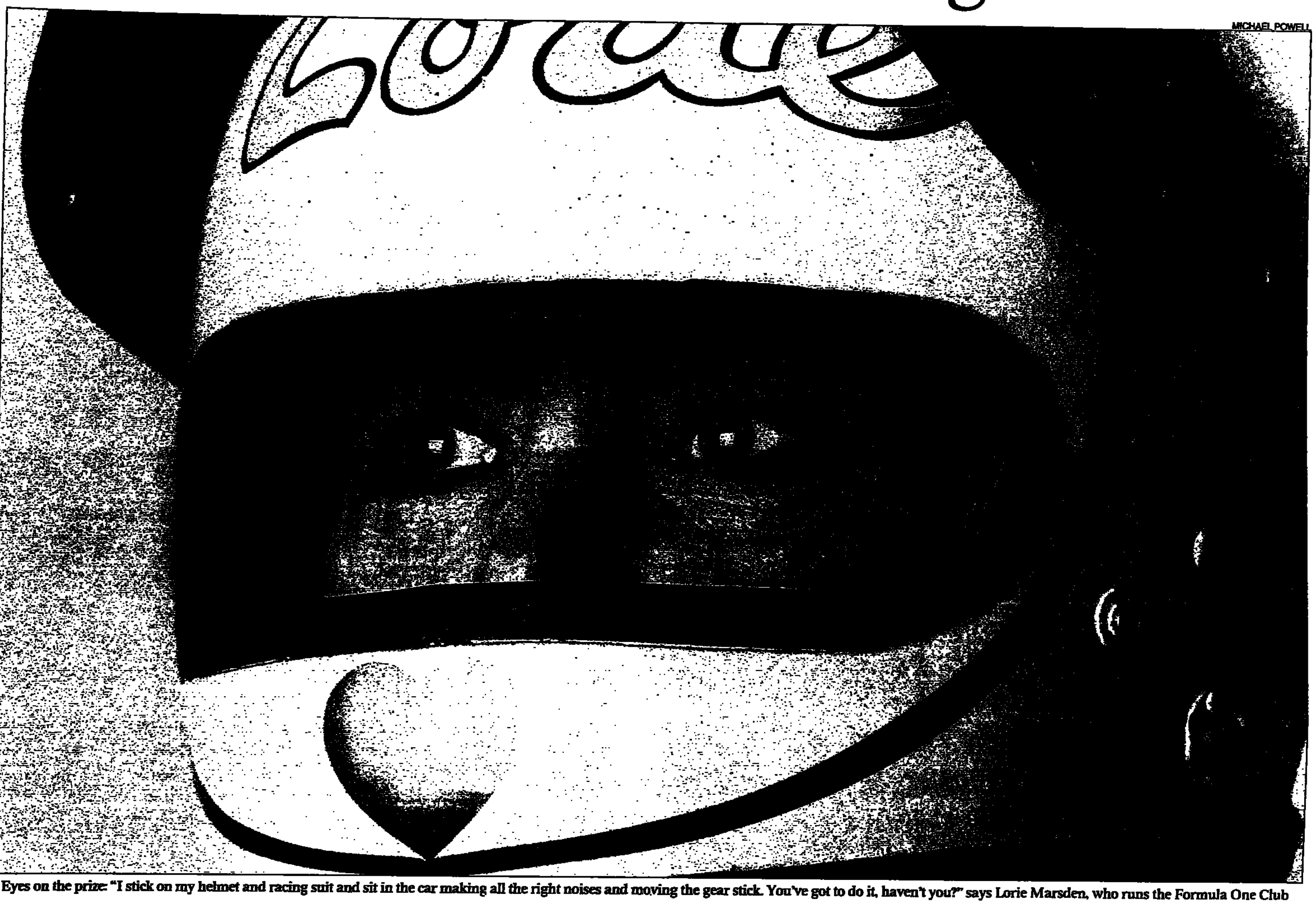
But these eyes beneath the neat, white helmet belong to Lorie Marsden ... and she is in her living room in Hampshire. Lorie is one of the 300 million whose eyes will be glued to the first grand prix of the season, one of the fans of the most esoteric form of sport on the planet, a world of machinery of such power and cost that it is remote from all but a few.

But fans like Lorie can dream. When she feels the grand prix urge, she dons her crash helmet and racing firesuit and heads for the garage. There she climbs into her pride and joy, an old and immobile Formula Ford 1600 once raced by Ferrari driver Eddie Irvine.

Lorie, who runs the Formula One Club, says: "I stick on my helmet and racing suit and sit in the car making all the right noises and moving the gear stick. You've got to do it, haven't you?"

Not all F1 fans are as dedicated as Lorie, who is waiting only for the lottery win that will enable her to get Eddie's old car up and running. But then not everyone can claim to have raced an unknown Brazilian then known as Ayrton da Silva, better known in later life as Ayrton Senna.

MICHAEL POWELL



Eyes on the prize: "I stick on my helmet and racing suit and sit in the car making all the right noises and moving the gear stick. You've got to do it, haven't you?" says Lorie Marsden, who runs the Formula One Club

Her home is named the Hawthorns after Britain's first F1 world champion, Mike Hawthorn, and the front room is painted in British Racing Green to match the BRG leather suite. Pride of place, apart from the cabinet of racing memorabilia, goes to a wrought iron and brass petrol pump. The walls are hung with black and white photographs of heros such as Graham Hill and Jim Clark.

Her partner, Tom, is also a race enthusiast and volunteer marshall at events. Lorie, an air traffic control assistant at West Drayton, is one of the small band of enthusiasts who run the driver and team support clubs in which fans of F1 can get together.

The Formula One Club has 400 members, and as honorary Vice-Presidents has drivers David Coulthard, Eddie Irvine, Jan Magnusson, and Mark Blundell. Regular visits are arranged to F1 headquarters, to testing days at Silverstone and outings to F1 meccas such as Monza, Imola, and the Ferrari factory at Maranello. Membership costs £17.50 a year.

Lorie says: "My father used to take me to Goodwood. We lived the other side of the hill and could hear when an event was on. We went in his Jaguar Mark II and he would sit me on the bonnet and we would watch from over the fence.

"As soon as I passed my test, I went to Brands Hatch for racing lessons and got my licence. I have a photograph from 1980-81 with me on the Formula Ford 1600 starting grid at Brands with Ayrton Senna — da Silva as he was then — ahead of me on the grid. Needless to say, I didn't get very close to him."

Domestic considerations, like buying a house, ended Lorie's racing career, but her passion for the sport lives on: "My father now writes wonderful articles for our newsletter on racing from the 1950s. My mother doesn't understand. She thinks I should be busy having children, even grandchildren, and my sisters don't understand it either.

"Grand prix fans aren't like football supporters who can go to a match and meet the same people in the same part of the ground. Our club means people can make contact and go together to races or meet up once they are there."

Annette Jones, 27, who runs Club Gerhard Berger, also caught the grand prix bug from her father: "I always watched the races with my Dad, watching people like Mario Andretti." A friend introduced her to the Benetton team, which gave her access to the glamour and excitement of the pit lanes, and the addiction to Formula One was confirmed. But why Berger? Annette, an accounts clerk, explains: "He stood out after his accident at Imola in 1989. I noticed him after that and thought how brave, or stupid, he was to carry on, and I have followed his career ever since.

"It isn't like a Take That fan club. As a person he is fun, he comes across as shy when he is in a group, but in fact is very jovial and very pleasant."

Other drivers, it seems, do little for her: "I don't like Damon Hill, and while I admire Schumacher, who as a driver is I think on a level with Ayrton, as a personality he's nowhere near him."

Annette tries to get to three grand prix races a year, usually Monaco and Silverstone for sure, and if possible one other, which in the past has included Estoril in Portugal and the Belgian at Spa. As with the Formula One Club, the Club Gerhard Berger (membership £15 a year), is a sociable set-up; members meet regularly for events, as well as to meet their hero at their annual meeting held over a barbeque at Silverstone.

Lorie at home — the house is named Hawthorns, not after the tree but the driver

Sara Richards, with three grown-up daughters, has just set up the Martin Brundle Supporters' Club. She says: "It's not like a groupie thing or anything. I go back to when Mike Hawthorn was the hero for every schoolgirl, and then it was James Hunt. I've been interested in Formula One for a long time and always followed the British drivers, and what's wrong with that? The whole thing is escapism, and not real life. It gets you away from the humdrum."

The F1 fascination is global. David Hayhoe runs the Grand Prix Contact Club, which has 400 members in 35 countries who make regular contact via the club's newsletter and membership list, all part of the £7 annual fee. Members are keen sellers and swappers of books, autographs, stickers and models, indeed anything that has the remotest link with Formula One. "Fans tend to be a very partisan crowd," David says.

It is these allegiances, he adds, that are reflected in their clubs of choice. "The fans tend to go very much for certain drivers, either for or against. In the 1980s, for example, everyone was pro or anti Mansell, or pro or anti Senna. Today they are pro and anti Hill, or pro and anti Schumacher, and whether or not the fans are German or British seems to have little to do with it."

Whatever their feelings, the certainty is the astonishing magnetism of Formula One racing. Whether it is in the back streets of Rio or the leafy drives of Hampshire, you can bet that the lights will be going on in the early hours of tomorrow morning as the addicts get ready to switch on and settle down for a fix of their favourite drug: the sight and sound of a grand prix.

The Formula One Club, 10 Fairway Close, Liphook, Hampshire, GU30 7XD. 01428 722765.

Club Gerhard Berger, 3 Bluebell Close, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7NY. 01938 555149.

Martin Brundle Supporters' Club, Glenthorn, Cleeve Road, Goring-on-Thames, Reading, RG8 9BJ. 01491 872296.

Grand Prix Contact Club, 26 Broom Road, Shirley, Croydon CR0 8NE. 0181-777 4835.

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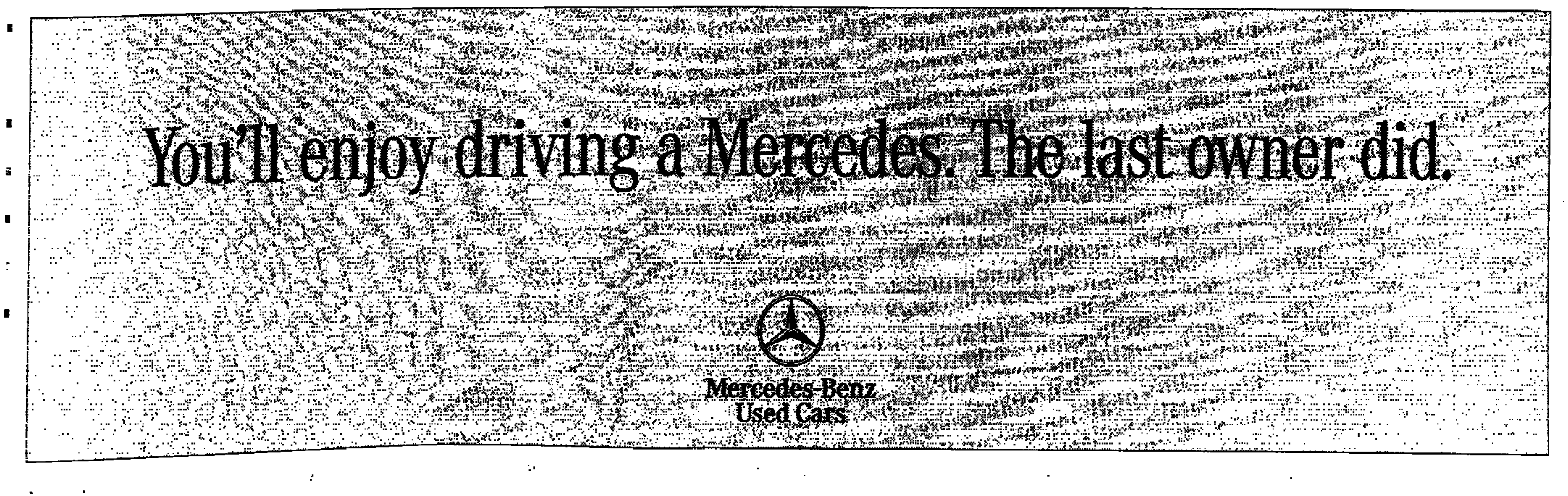
Win £10,000 in our F1 contest

F1 FANTASY DRIVE



You'll enjoy driving a Mercedes. The last owner did.

Mercedes-Benz
Used Cars

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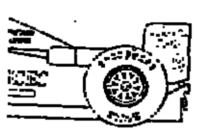
NDA

10 Pedro Diniz
Brazilian
GP starts: 17
Poles: 0
Wins: 0
Points: 0
Age: 25



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ore than promising;
e Pedro Diniz so far
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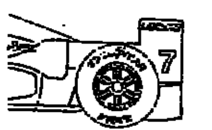
around Adelaide
all we know.

ES

8 David Coulthard
British
GP starts: 25
Poles: 5
Wins: 1
Points: 63
Age: 24



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BBC commentator and ex-Formula One driver **Jonathan Palmer** opens his guide to the 1996 grands prix . . .

Pick of the crop from a vintage season

In six years of commentating for the BBC, never has it been so difficult to predict the pattern of competitiveness of drivers and teams of a Formula One season. The excitement from both those on the inside and the enthusiast is tremendous, with the competition reckoned to be closer than ever.

That has nothing to do with the changes to the cars, for these are minimal. Engine size remains at 3-litres, weight is similar and minor restrictions on extra wings will not prevent the new cars from being even faster than last year's.

The intrigue comes from the many changes of drivers between teams. The performance of each team's cars can be expected to be broadly the same as last year, in terms of being front running, mid-grid or at the back. However, the drivers make a modest but vital difference to the exact qualifying or race position of a given car.

The fascination is intense because, until the first grand prix of the season, no pattern exists of driver and team results. During winter testing, teams are checking their new cars for reliability and trying to understand how to fine tune the suspension and aerodynamics to optimise the basic design. In the process, some are more concerned than others at setting fast lap times for press excitement and sponsor encouragement.

Only at the first race can they be truly compared. The grid positions for tomorrow's Australian Grand Prix should have been determined in the 60-minute qualifying session that finished at 3am today . After months of posturing and conjecture, we have the facts.

Once again, I expect Williams to be the team to beat, continuing years of domination from superb, stable engineering and a great Renault engine. Damon Hill continues for his fourth season, frustrated that, despite having a faster car last year, he was beaten to the title by Schumacher. He starts favourite for the championship. He is quick, determined, experienced and probably in the best car again.

While Schumacher in a Benetton was Hill's problem last season, this year it could be his new team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve. The 24-year-old Canadian has made it clear he intends to beat Hill. With a pedigree that includes being the son of the late Ferrari driver, Gilles, and current Indy car champion (America's answer to Formula One), he should be taken seriously.

PALMER'S KNOWLEDGE

Another team pairing in the spotlight is at McLaren Mercedes, where Mika Hakkinen continues for a third season, joined by Hill's ex-team mate David Coulthard. The importance of dominating a team-mate cannot be overestimated, and following Hakkinen's appalling accident at Adelaide just four months ago. I might have expected the Scot to have been established as McLaren's dominant driver over the winter. However, everyone is hugely relieved that Mika's serious head injuries have recovered to the extent that he appears to be as stunningly quick as he was.

Michael Schumacher is apparently not a happy man — extraordinary for someone earning a reputed £16 million this year. But the problem is his new Ferrari, which was very late being completed and unreliable even when it did run. Ferrari perennially claim their forthcoming season's target is just to win a couple of races and then the championship the following year, surely a defence strategy with which to deflect potential press criticism.

Eddie Irvine has hardly driven the new car, and will have to work hard to maintain his cool when all around him are focusing on his team-mate. Schumacher will surely continue to be F1's best driver, but it will be interesting to see how he copes with the lack of reliability, and, to a lesser extent, pace, I anticipate. Ability shines when confidence and morale are high, and I suspect the German will have to handle the sight of someone else doing well this year.

That someone could be Jean Alesi, now in Schumacher's old seat at Benetton, along with his old Ferrari partner Gerhard Berger. Both will find new motivation from Benetton's likely reliability after years of resignation to Ferrari's record of retiring from most races. My money though goes on Alesi, who never gives up, though he has been criticised for only having won a single race after seven years of trying. In truth, he has never had a car with speed and reliability to do so, and while Berger has won nine races, over the past three years at Ferrari he too has only won one.

Beyond the traditional top four teams, Jordan looks the most promising. Martin Brundle's experience and Barrichello's smooth style should make a good pairing to get the best out of the Peugeot engined chassis. Last year their sparring partners were McLaren: both teams now think they have moved on and up towards the Williams Benetton league. I rate Heinz Harald Frentzen second only to Schumacher, and he has stayed loyal to Sauber alongside Johnny Herbert. They should be right up there with Jordan, though early indications are it will take a while for the new Ford V10 engine to be truly competitive.

So how will new cars and the new driver pack fare on a track they've never seen before? The 3.27-mile Melbourne circuit has been constructed in the previously rundown Albert Park and looks very exciting. Unlike most street circuits, it includes some fast corners, which in F1 driver speak means around 140mph.

As with all teams, Tyrrell Yamaha have a computer simulation to help them prepare the car for the new track — vital to predict gear ratios and wing settings.

The main start-finish straight is only 800 metres long, but with around 700 brake horse power, that's still sufficient to reach the circuit's top speed of 180mph in sixth gear, the V10 engines howling at up to 17,000rpm.

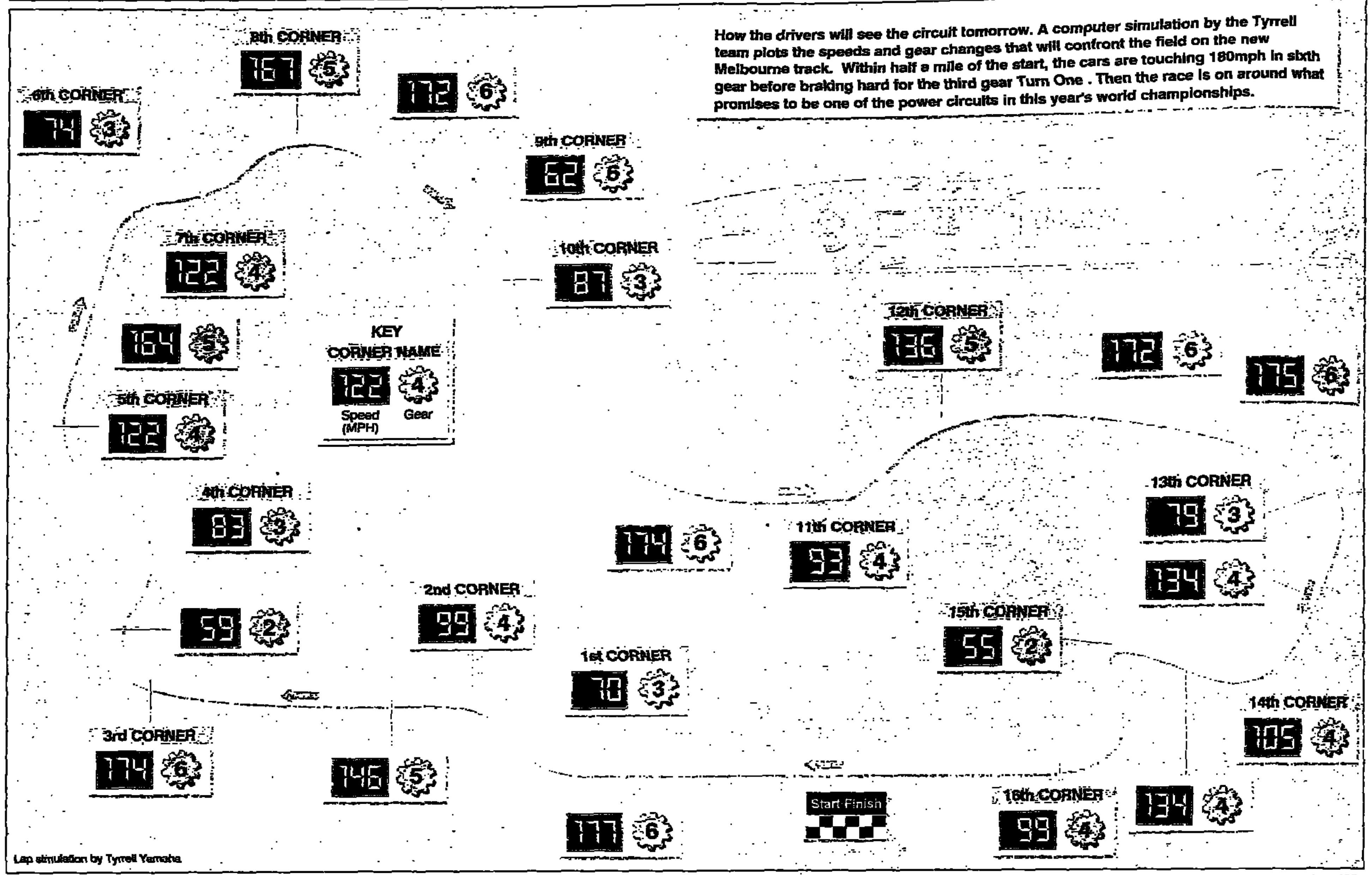
Just a two second jab of the brakes will be enough to haul the car down to 70mph as the driver simply flicks his left hand flipper on the steering wheel three times for third gear. Accelerating through the right, into fourth and flat on the throttle to exit Turn 2 at 100mph. Fifth gear, sixth and 175mph again.

The corners should be really nice to drive, often getting faster through a sequence as with Turns 3, 4, 5, taken in second, third and fourth gears respectively. Another beautiful series follows — but faster: taking Turn 8 at 170mph pulling 2.5G of cornering force will really sort the men from the boys.

The relatively gentle Turn 10 will be easily flat out at 175mph-plus, but even then the cornering force will be double that of a road car on the limit. But the most G — nearly 3 — is predicted for Turn 12, taken in fifth gear at about 140mph, before a couple of physically easier medium speed right handers before Melbourne's slowest corner, Turn 15, down to 55mph in second gear. Up to third, turn right, fourth, flat on the accelerator, and through the last corner at 100mph. It has the makings of a truly great circuit. Fast, demanding and very hard work.

Overtaking is never easy, but likely spots are into Turn 1 and Turn 3. A surely vintage grand prix season could not have a better start. Look to Williams to win, with the safe money on Hill. But if Villeneuve wins his first grand prix he will match a feat only achieved once before, when Giancarlo Baghetti won the French GP for Ferrari in 1961.

TURNS OF SPEED - GEAR CHANGES ON A FLYING LAP OF MELBOURNE



How the drivers will see the circuit tomorrow. A computer simulation by the Tyrrell team plots the speeds and gear changes that will confront the field on the new Melbourne track. Within half a mile of the start, the cars are touching 180mph in sixth gear before braking hard for the third gear Turn One . Then the race is on around what promises to be one of the power circuits in this year's world championships.

Lap simulation by Tyrrell Yamaha

ALLSPORT

Two men in the fastest lane: last year's champion, Michael Schumacher, left, in his Ferrari, and Damon Hill, favourite to scoop the title in 1996, at the wheel of his Williams Renault

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In the small hours, we are with Murray Walker half a world away; tread softly, for you tread on our dreams

Wheels that spin our fantasies

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

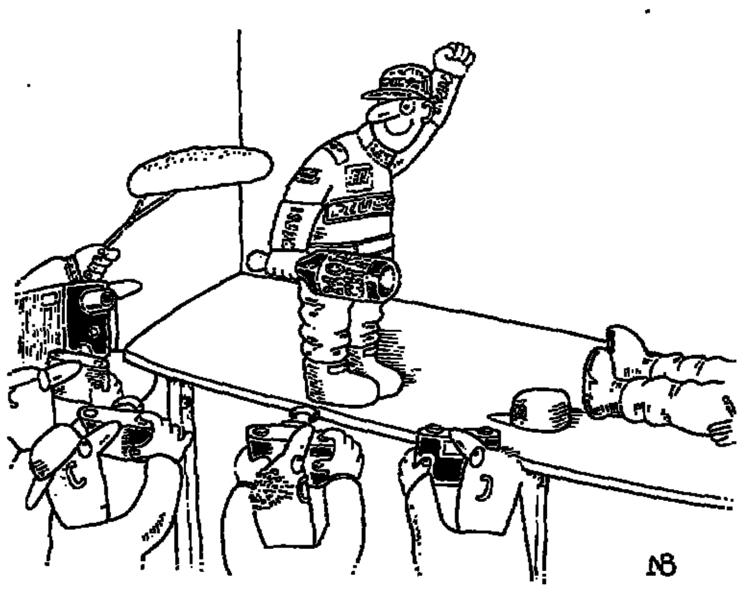
Today the front page of *Car 96* talks to people besotted with motor racing. But this is not the odd thing about them. The odd thing is that, unlike people who perm the hair of their dogs, they are by no means a weird minority.

Otherwise ordinary people, such as me, think nothing of getting up in the middle of the night to watch what a friend calls "200mph cigarette packets" career round a track on the other side of the globe. These circulating, hi-tech machines have as their permanent accompaniment a screaming, raucous engine which assaults the eardrums and irritates saner people beyond measure. It is called Murray Walker.

Many of the races turn into a procession after the first few frantic laps, yet the largest worldwide television audience for any regular event will be glued to the satellite feed from Melbourne. Why?

Formula One is a strange world which has invented for itself a spurious tradition. For example, Frank Williams has had a team for only a couple of decades yet his headquarters at Didcot boasts a "museum" of F1 cars.

This tradition is not as odd as it sounds, for the roots of F1 and its popularity lie in ancient times, in a combination of myth, legend and reality. They grow, these roots, from the age of the single combat warrior. Older civilisations, being less enlightened than us, did not drop bombs on civilian populations in times of conflict. Instead, they chose their finest exponents of the fighting art and sent them forth: hence that Biblical mismatch, David v Goliath.



Nowadays, most war is trade war except for internecine strife, and Britain v Germany has become a fight to attract a Toyota factory. That is better than bombing Dresden or Plymouth, but it is not very sexy. Walker commentating on the Gatt round? *Oh my GOOD-ness, here come the GER-mans, offering TAX breaks for machine TOOL makers and they've WON, no they haven't, the BRITS have stunned the GER-mans with a SEN-sational extra FIFTY tonnes on haddock quotas.* No, I don't think so, either.

But Britain v Germany seen as Hill versus Schumacher is a very different matter. Formula One can therefore be seen as the most international of sports which is nonetheless crucially nationalistic. And it is the men, not the teams, for whom we wave the flags. I would bet that there is not a single sporting occasion where the red white and blue is so much in evidence as at Silverstone for the grand prix.

Let's face it: we Brits do not much like foreigners. Schumacher v Hill is the epitome of the nationalist tendency in our enjoyment of sporting contests. The blond arrogant German against the dark, dull, chisel-jawed Brit. Hints of nasty, Germanic practices in the bends.

Formula One is also the ultimate in vicarious pleasure: these men live out our dreams. They drive better than we can ever hope to drive, but that does not prevent us doing racing changes as we leave Silverstone.

Where Schumacher-Hill confront 90mph chicanes, we confront traffic calming systems. Where Schumacher-Hill glance up from the track to see a board telling them where they are in the race, we sit on motorways fuming at boards which announce: "Delays possible for seven years."

Schumacher-Hill are what we would be, if only. If only there were no laws, no police, no traffic wardens, no other traffic on the road. The McLaren F1 supercar is cleverly named: it brings our dream tantalisingly close. If only we didn't have kids, dogs, school runs, ageing aunts, mortgages, the McLaren F1 is what we would be in. As it is, has anyone seen the keys to the Volvo estate?

GRAND PRIX NEWS IN BRIEF

Sale vroom

SOME OF the most beautiful and exotic cars in Melbourne will be at a Christie's sale, which includes a rare 1929 Bentley Speed Six Gurney Nutting coupé that could fetch £400,000. Two private collections go under the hammer and there are more exotic Bentleys and Rolls-Royces than you could shake a chequered flag at. In the sale are a 1912 London to Edinburgh Rolls, expected to make up to £300,000, and a 1930 Le Mans-style, 6½-litre Bentley open tourer at about £250,000.

Accelerating profits

AS MICHAEL Schumacher riffles through his pile of dollar bills this weekend, contemplating his £12.5 million contract with Ferrari, think of the poor drivers of the past before television and mega-sponsorship. According to *Autocar*, Jackie Stewart was paid £1.2 million for the 1973 season, Alain Prost £2.5 million in 1986 but Stirling Moss, that great but never-crowned world champion driver, only £31,000 in 1961.

Brits in pole position

FOR DINNER table bores: which nation provides the best Formula One drivers? Britain, of course. In spite of Schumacher's domination of the past two years and Senna and Prost, Britons have won 11 world championships, compared with eight for Brazil and five for Argentina . . . well, Juan Manuel Fangio actually, who won them all.

Use my car, old chap

IMAGINE this happening tomorrow: a leading driver stops and gives his car to his team-mate, who has broken down, to go on and win. Fanciful? Englishman Peter Collins did that at Monza in 1956 when he had a commanding position in the championship after two wins. Fangio's Ferrari broke down, so Collins willingly handed over his own, effectively ending his own chances of becoming Britain's first world champion.

هكذا من الأصل

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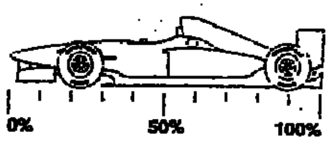
. . . and *Car 96* looks at the circuits, plus the teams that will line up on the grid in the 16-race championship

Of men, machines and the tracks ahead

■ FORM GUIDE: These are the runners and riders, but which drivers and cars will taste success in 1996, and which will have to go back to the drawing board?



■ KEY: Cars coloured according to victory chances: example Williams 100%, McLaren 50%

■ THE CIRCUITS: Facts and figures for all 16 circuits where battle takes place listed here. Match the drivers, the cars and the tracks to find winners

FORTI-FORD

22 Andrea Montermini
Italian
GP starts: 17
Poles. 0
Wins: 0
Points 0
Age: 31

23 Luca Badoer
Italian
GP starts: 29
Poles: 0
Wins: 0
Points: 0
Age: 25

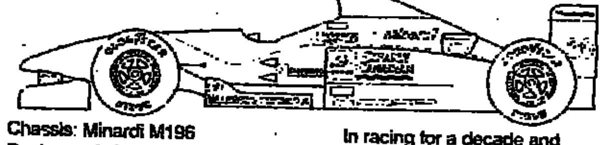
Chassis Forti FG01-95
Designer: Giorgio Stirano
Race wins: 0
Engine. Ford V8
Constructor's titles: 0
First GP. 1995

Montermini and Badoer will get used to the sight of tailpipes disappearing into the distance. Successful Formula 3000 and F3 team that discovered F1 too hard, even with £10 million to spend.

MINARDI-FORD

20 Pedro Lamy
Portuguese
GP starts: 16
Poles: 0
Wins: 0
Points: 1
Age: 23

***21 Taki Inoue**
Japanese
GP starts: 18
Poles: 0
Wins: 0
Points: 0
Age: 32



Chassis: Minardi M196
Designer: Aldos Costa
Race wins: 0
Engine: Ford ED V8
Constructor's titles: 0
First GP: 1985

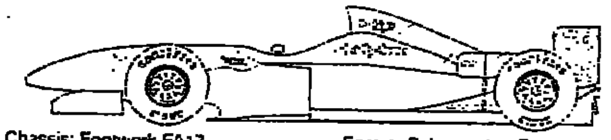
In racing for a decade and without so much as thank you for making up the numbers. Minardi is the car leaders pass on their way to chequered flag and this year should be no different.

*Giancarlo Fisichella will drive first GP

FOOTWORK-HART

16 Jos Verstappen
Dutch
GP starts: 15
Poles: 0
Wins: 0
Points: 10
Age: 24

17 Ricardo Rosset
Brazilian
GP starts: 0
Poles 0
Wins: 0
Points: 0
Age: 27



Chassis: Footwork FA17
Designer: Alan Jenkins
Race wins: 0
Engine: Hart V8
Constructor's titles: 0
First GP: 1978

Former Schumacher Benetton teammate, Jos Verstappen, should boost fortunes. Team still to win since entering F1 in 1978 though and even talented Verstappen will find life at the bottom difficult.

LIGIER-MUGEN HONDA

9 Olivier Panis
French
GP starts: 33
Poles: 0
Wins 0
Points: 25
Age. 29

10 Pedro Diniz
Brazilian
GP starts: 17
Poles: 0
Wins: 0
Points: 0
Age: 25

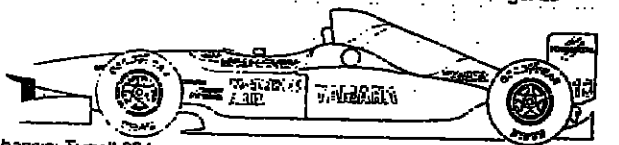
Chassis. Ligier JS43
Designer: Frank Dernie
Race wins: 9
Engine: Mugden-Honda V10
Constructor's titles: 0
First GP: 1976

Tom Walkinshaw car could be good but the drivers? Panis never more than promising; teammate Pedro Diniz so far behind last year he could still be going around Adelaide circuit for all we know.

TYRRELL-YAMAHA

18 Ukyo Katayama
Japanese
GP starts: 61
Poles: 0
Wins: 0
Points: 5
Age: 32

19 Mika Salo
Finnish
GP starts: 19
Poles: 0
Wins: 0
Points: 5
Age: 28



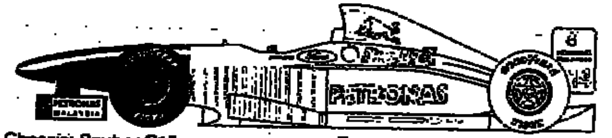
Chassis: Tyrrell 024
Designer: Harvey Postlethwaite
Race wins: 23
Engine. Yamaha V10
Constructor's titles: 1
First GP. 1970

Great name but days of Jackie Stewart and world titles long gone. Seriously quick Mika Salo deserves chance to shine. Car reliability a bugbear, although Yamaha V10 could signal return to glory days. Let's hope so.

SAUBER-FORD

14 Johnny Herbert
British
GP starts: 80
Poles: 0
Wins: 2
Points: 63
Age: 31

15 Heinz-H Frentzen
German
GP starts: 32
Poles: 0
Wins: 0
Points: 22
Age: 28



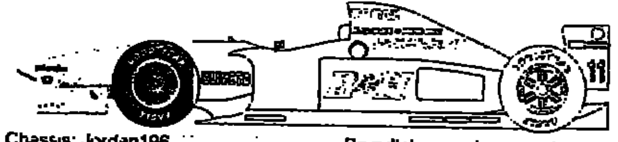
Chassis: Sauber C15
Designer: Leo Ress
Race wins: 0
Engine: Ford V10
Constructor's titles: 0
First GP: 1993

Frentzen potentially great and Herbert's pedigree without question. Can car match the drivers? Cosworth V10 power in a compact chassis: so maybe first victory beckons for Sauber this year.

JORDAN-PEUGEOT

11 Rubens Barrichello
Brazilian
GP starts: 48
Poles: 1
Wins: 0
Points: 32
Age: 23

12 Martin Brundle
British
GP starts. 142
Poles: 0
Wins: 0
Points: 90
Age: 36



Chassis: Jordan196
Designer: Gary Anderson
Race wins: 0
Engine: Peugeot V10
Constructor's titles: 0
First GP: 1991

Brundle's experience and extra year of work on unreliable Peugeot V10 could turn fortunes. Barrichello needs podium places for Jordan to break into the big league from 1995 sixth place.

McLAREN-MERCEDES

7 Mika Hakkinen
Finnish
GP starts: 63
Poles: 0
Wins: 0
Points: 60
Age: 27

8 David Coulthard
British
GP starts: 25
Poles: 5
Wins: 1
Points: 63
Age: 24

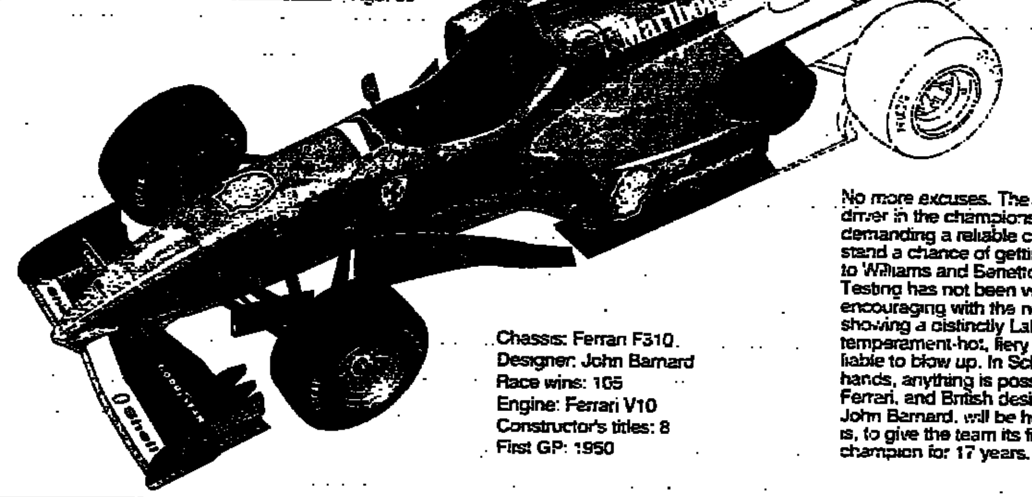
Chassis: McLaren MP4/11
Designer: Neil Oatley
Race wins: 104
Engine: Mercedes V10
Constructor's titles: 7
First GP. 1966

"If" is the big word for McLaren If the car is competitive, if Coulthard really is that good, if Hakkinen is fully recovered, the McLaren could be back with a vengeance to test Hill and return to winning ways

FERRARI

1 Michael Schumacher
German
GP starts: 69
Poles: 10
Wins: 19
Points: 303
Age: 27

2 Eddie Irvine
British
GP starts: 32
Poles: 0
Wins: 0
Points: 17
Age: 30



Chassis: Ferrari F310.
Designer: John Barnard
Race wins: 105
Engine: Ferrari V10
Constructor's titles: 8
First GP: 1950

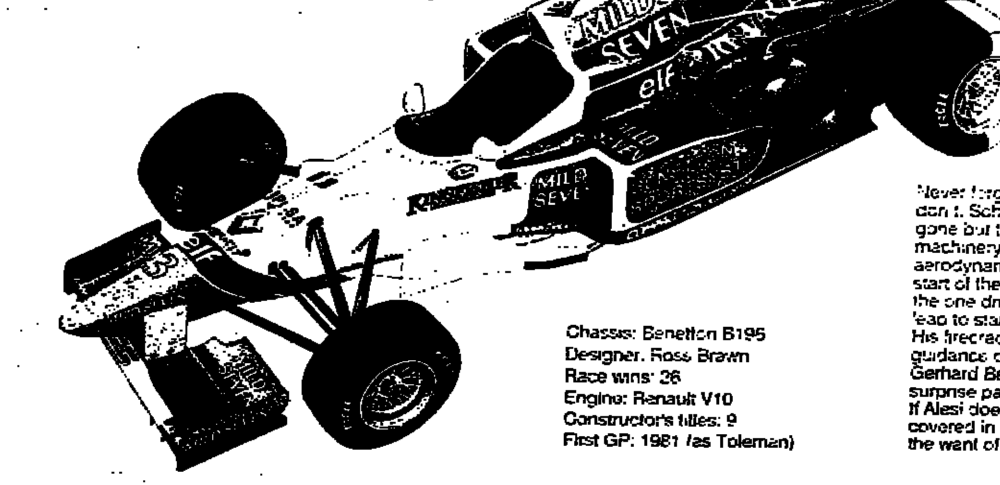
No more excuses. The best driver in the championship is demanding a reliable car to stand a chance of getting near to Williams and Benetton. Testing has not been very encouraging with the new V10 showing a distinctly Latin temperament-hot, fiery but liable to blow up. In Schuey's hands, anything is possible. Ferrari, and British designer John Barnard, will be hoping it is, to give the team its first world champion for 17 years.

GRAPHIC BY
GEOFFREY SIMS
JOHN LAWSON
DAVID HART

BENETTON-RENAULT

3 Jean Alesi
French
GP starts: 102
Poles: 1
Wins: 1
Points: 142
Age: 31

4 Gerhard Berger
Austria
GP starts: 180
Poles: 11
Wins: 9
Points: 337
Age: 36



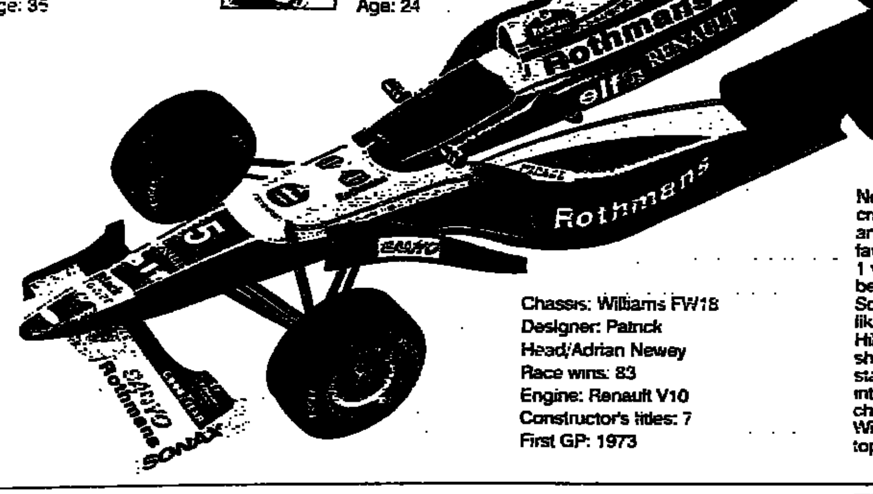
Chassis: Benetton B195
Designer. Ross Brawn
Race wins: 26
Engine: Renault V10
Constructor's titles: 9
First GP: 1981 (as Toleman)

Never forget Benetton; Williams don't. Schumacher might have gone but this car is proven machinery, with some minor aerodynamic changes for the start of the year, and now has the one driver just waiting to lead to stardom in Jean Alesi. His firecracker style allied to the guidance of experienced Gerhard Berger could be the surprise package of the season. If Alesi doesn't come out of 1996 covered in glory, it won't be for the want of trying.

WILLIAMS-RENAULT

5 Damon Hill
British
GP starts: 51
Poles. 11
Wins: 13
Points 229
Age: 35

6 Jacques Villeneuve
Canadian
GP starts: 0
Poles: 0
Wins: 0
Points: 0
Age: 24

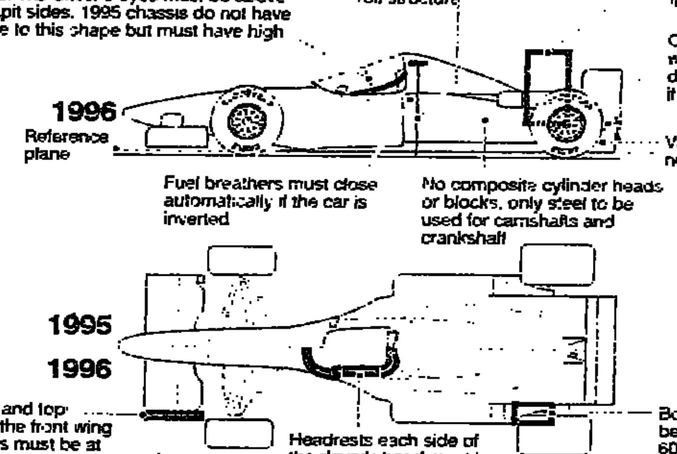


Chassis: Williams FW18
Designer: Patrick Head/Adrian Newey
Race wins: 83
Engine: Renault V10
Constructor's titles: 7
First GP: 1973

Now or never for Damon but critics forget his will to win and his exemplary record so far: 13 wins in 51 starts; that's 1 victory in every 3.9 races, better than anyone except Schumacher. Williams still likely to field the best car, and Hill's new partner, Villeneuve, should be on pace. If Hill can stay on the track and not be intimidated, the world championship beckons and Williams should get home as top constructor yet again.

THE NEW RULES FOR 1996

QUALIFYING
Drivers will have 2 hours free practice on Friday (Thursday in Monaco) between 11.00-12.00 and 13.00-14.00 and 1½ hours on Saturday between 9.00-9.45 and 10.15-11.00. Maximum of 30 laps on each day. Official qualifying will be 1 hour on Saturday between 13.00-14.00, maximum of 12 laps. Tougher qualifying means drivers must not be more than 7% slower than pole position lap time. A spare car may be used in qualifying, but not in free practice. A 30 minute warm-up session will be held 4½ hours before the race. Drivers may use up to 28 sets of tyres for the whole event. No limit on amount of fuel used, refuelling is allowed. Engine capacity is 3-litres, normally aspirated.



The cockpit sides have to be no more than 220mm below the line between the two roll stuctures. The driver's eyes must be above the cockpit sides. 1995 chassis do not have to adhere to this shape but must have high sides

There is a minimum height of 940mm for the second roll structure

Bodywork not permitted any more than 500mm from the car centre line

Cars must be fitted with a means of disengaging the clutch if the car stops

Variable length exhausts no longer permitted

Fuel breathers must close automatically if the car is inverted

No composite cylinder heads or blocks, only steel to be used for camshafts and crankshaft

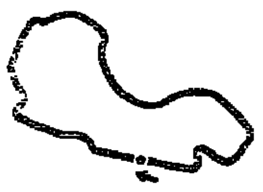
The front and top edges of the front wing end plates must be at least 10mm thick and have 5mm radius

Headrests each side of the driver's head must be at least 75mm thick and 400cm2 in area.

Bodywork not permitted between 300 and 600mm above the reference plane

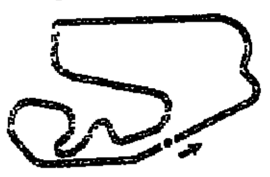
THE GRAND PRIX CALENDAR AND CIRCUITS

AUSTRALIA
Melbourne, March 10



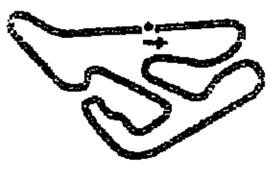
Race distance: 189.89 miles
58 laps of 3.274 miles
Lap record: *to be established*
Drivers will think twice around this circuit because it is first time for everyone. Melbourne has constructed a circuit especially to wrest the Australian from Adelaide and it promises to be fast and furious.

BRAZIL
Interlagos, March 31



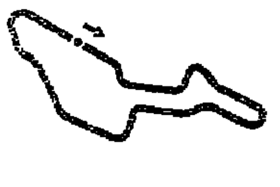
Race distance: 190.77 miles
71 laps of 2.664 miles
Lap record: Schumacher 1m 18.455s, Benetton-Renault (123.315mph)
Spectacular vista but enough bumps on the track to worry a mumps victim. Plenty of quick corners and a wonderfully long straight that should provide plenty of opportunity for slip-streaming for the quickest cars.

ARGENTINA
Buenos Aires, April 7



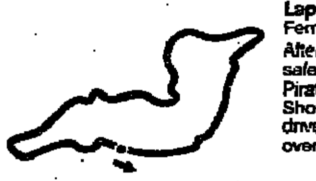
Race distance: 190.08 miles
72 laps of 2.64 miles
Lap record: Schumacher 1m 30.522s, Benetton-Renault (105.24mph)
More curves than Liz Hurley, which could make it a Renault circuit where acceleration and handling count. Narrow and bumpy although it features the long and fast Ascari curve that drivers take flat out at 160mph.

EUROPE
Nürburgring, April 28



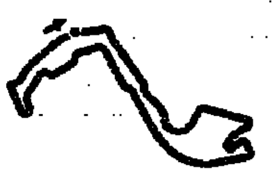
Race distance: 189.074 miles
67 laps of 2.822 miles
Lap record: Schumacher 1m 21.18s, Benetton-Renault (125.540mph)
Short straights make over-taking tricky and could turn this race into a procession longer than the Coronation. First to the first corner will be on a winner if he can stay reliable around the 2.8-mile circuit.

SAN MARINO
Imola, May 5



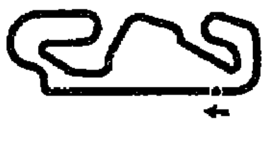
Race distance: 191.621 miles
63 laps of 3.132 miles
Lap record: Berger 1m 29.568s, Ferrari (122.25mph)
After death of Senna in 1994, now a safe but slow circuit with only the Piratella corner a high-speed 165mph. Should prove tough on brakes and drivers who will need to look for every overtaking opportunity.

MONACO
Monte Carlo, May 19



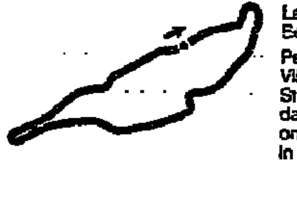
Race distance: 161.304 miles
78 laps of 2.068 miles
Lap record: Schumacher 1m 21.076s. Benetton-Renault (91.821mph)
They don't come any more romantic, but put Schumacher at the front here and it will need a tonne of dynamite to shift him from the lead. Overtaking at a premium. Glossy but too often a procession.

SPAIN
Barcelona, June 2



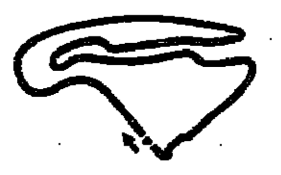
Race distance: 190.905 miles
65 laps of 2.937 miles
Lap record: Hill 1m 24.531s, Williams-Renault (125.089mph)
Decent top-speed straight and high-speed corners should make for overtaking and a Williams circuit. Schumacher won last year though and will want his Ferrari to take full advantage of the wide-open spaces.

CANADA
Montreal, June 15



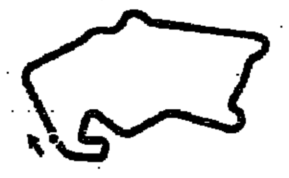
Race distance: 189.943 miles
69 laps of 2.75 miles
Lap record: Schumacher 1m 28.927s. Benetton-Ford (111.937mph)
Perhaps the time for Jacques Villeneuve to win on the circuit, set on St Lawrence Seaway, named after his dad, Gilles. Two big chicanes are hard on the brakes but slow cars that get out in front could still do well

FRANCE
Magny-Cours, June 30



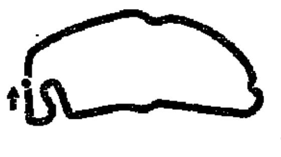
Race distance: 184.608 miles
72 laps of 2.654 miles
Lap record: Mansell 1m 17.070s, Williams-Renault (123.355mph)
Power circuit, flat with mix of high and low speed bends. Drivers don't like it because it demands precise set-up, one of Schumacher's best qualities. Should suit Williams team but pit stops cost the team dearly last year.

BRITAIN
Silverstone, July 14



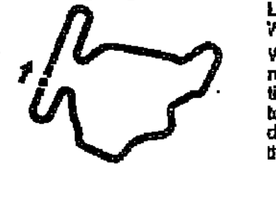
Race distance: 191.66 miles
61 laps of 3.142 miles
Lap record: Hill 1m 27.100s. Williams-Renault (129.875mph)
Quick circuit being made quicker with some changes this year. Bags of fans and bags of excitement because circuit needs precise handling. Should be Hill's day if he can stay away from everybody else.

GERMANY
Hockenheim, July 28



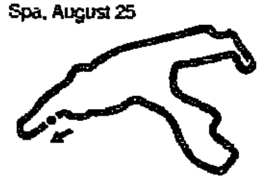
Race distance: 190.53 miles
45 laps of 4.234 miles
Lap record: Coulthard 1m 46.211s, Williams-Renault (143.700mph)
All the way to 200mph through the tunnel of forbidding trees trackside. Cars need power and low downforce but enough grip for the curves. Could be fun with plenty of partisan support for Schumacher.

HUNGARY
Hungaroring, August 11



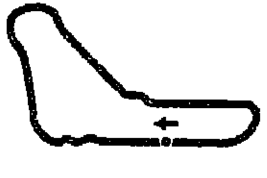
Race distance: 189.805 miles
77 laps of 2.465 miles
Lap record: Mansell 1m 18.308s, Williams-Renault (113.349mph)
Worse than the M25 on a Monday morning. Qualifying important because tight, twisty track gives little opportunity to overtake. Pole position car should dictate race day if it can stay reliable through stop-start circuit.

BELGIUM
Spa, August 25



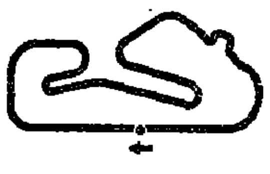
Race distance: 191.696 miles
44 laps of 4.334 miles
Lap record: Prost 1m 51.095s, Williams-Renault (140.42mph)
Fast and often wet. Spa is one of the best. High-speed straights and heavy braking into tough corners, so power and durability called for at track where Schumacher last year carved his way from 16th to win

ITALY
Monza, September 8



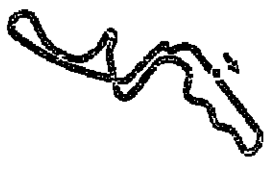
Race distance: 191.01 miles
53 laps of 3.604 miles
Lap record: Hill 1m 26.575s, Williams-Renault (155.24 mph)
Ferrari's home turf with 200mph straights and tricky chicanes. Teams will be trying to sacrifice downforce to gain speed but must watch the set-up through the kerbs and corners which tricked the field last year.

PORTUGAL
Estoril, September 22



Race distance: 192.339 miles
71 laps of 2.709 miles
Lap record: Coulthard 1m 22.446s, Williams-Renault (118.295mph)
Favourite test track which provides great racing. Bumps and dips with tight turns so speeds not great, helping to narrow the gaps between the best and not-so-bad. Williams like it with Coulthard winning last year. This year?

JAPAN
Suzuka, October 13



Race distance: 192.92 miles
53 laps of 3.64 miles
Lap record: Mansell 1m 40.646s, Williams-Renault (130.332mph)
Last but not least, Suzuka could be decision-maker for the championship. Long circuit with quick straights and uphill curves so cars need plenty of power and to keep tyre wear to a minimum.

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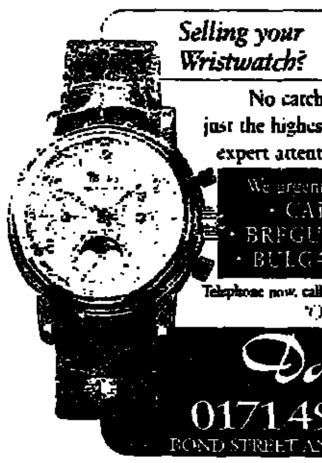

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THE SCORING SYSTEM

1) **Qualifying points:** scored by drivers qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid: Pole position 20 points; 2nd 19; 3rd 18; 4th 17; 5th 16; 6th 15; 7th 14; 8th 13; 9th 12; 10th 11; 11th 10; 12th 9; 13th 8; 14th 7; 15th 6; 16th 5; 17th 4; 18th 3; 19th 2; 20th 1.

2) **Finishing points:** (as for qualifying points) scored by drivers for the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix: 1st position 20 points; and in descending order to one point for 20th position.

3) **Lap points:** one point is scored for each lap completed in a grand prix.

4) **Improved position points:** three points are scored for each place improved from starting grid to finishing position in each race.

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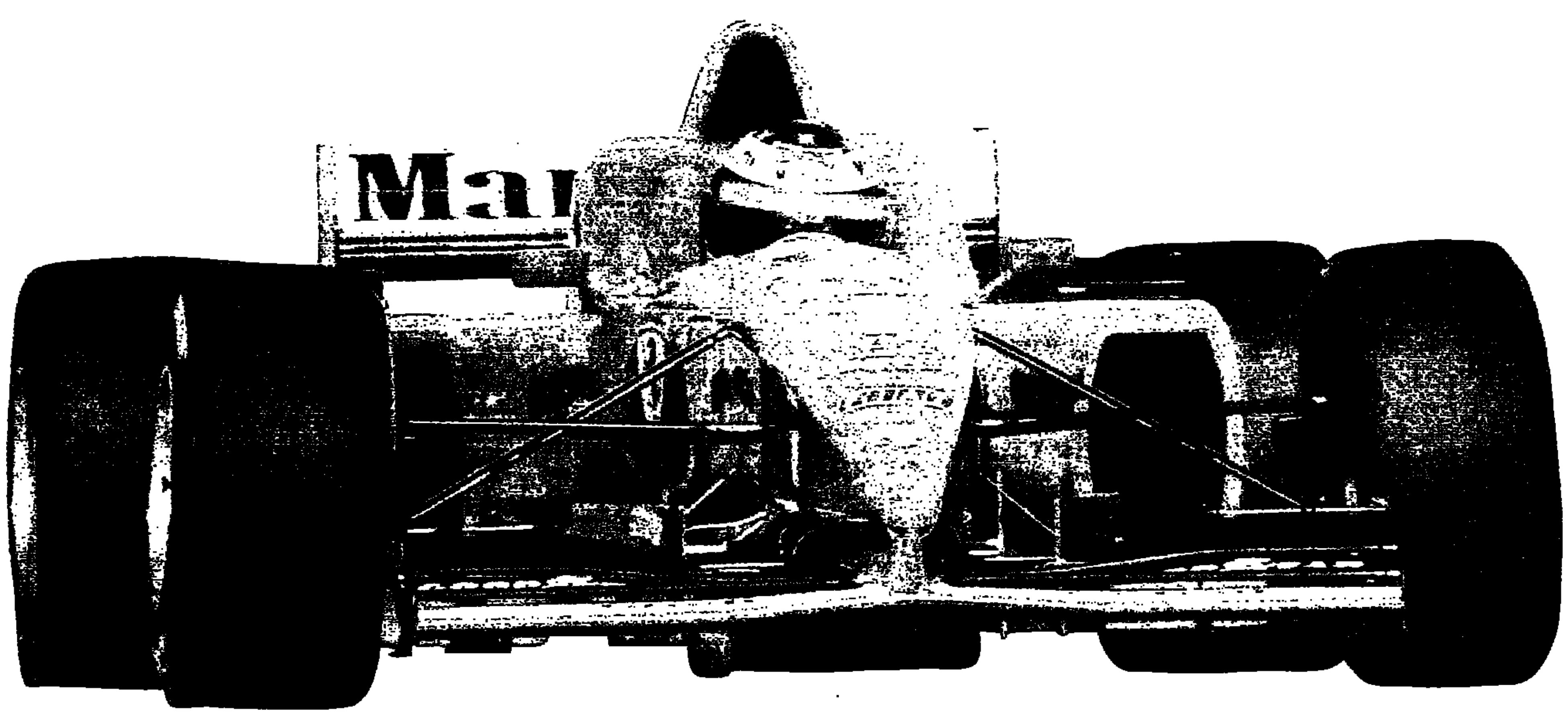
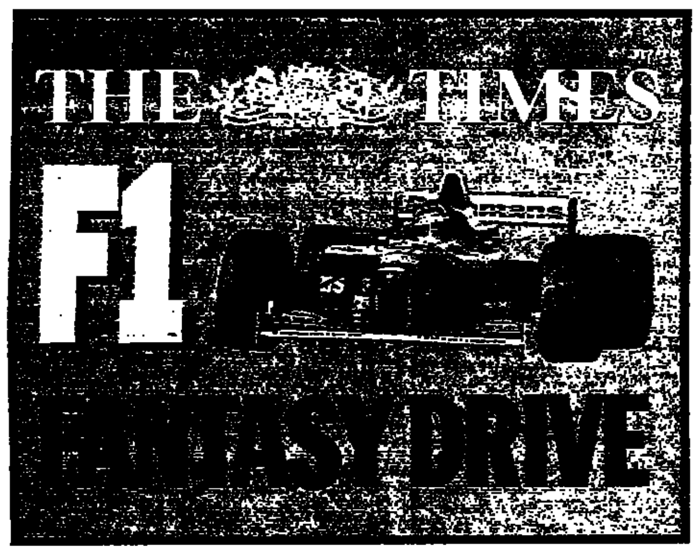
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1 Race results will be taken as those standing at midnight on the Sunday of each grand prix. 2 The rules of the FIA, as they affect The Times F1 Fantasy Drive, will apply in relation to points. 3 Changes of circumstance: if a driver is replaced, through death or injury, you will be deemed to have chosen the new driver; if a driver transfers to another team you will keep that driver as your selection. In both instances the driver is eligible for transfer should you wish to exercise this option. 4 In the event of one or more entrants having the same score at the end of the competition a tie break will come into effect to decide the £10,000 prize winner. 5 In the event of more than one entrant having the same score for an individual race prize the winner will be selected at random. 6 The computerised record of your entry will be considered to be the entry. 7 Normal Times Newspapers rules apply and the editor's decision is final.



Michael Schumacher of Germany in his new Ferrari F310 during testing in Estoril, Portugal



● See our guide to the drivers and circuits in the 1996 Grands Prix on pages two and three, or see the Australian GP on BBC2 at 9.10am tomorrow and see at first hand how each driver is performing before making your selection.

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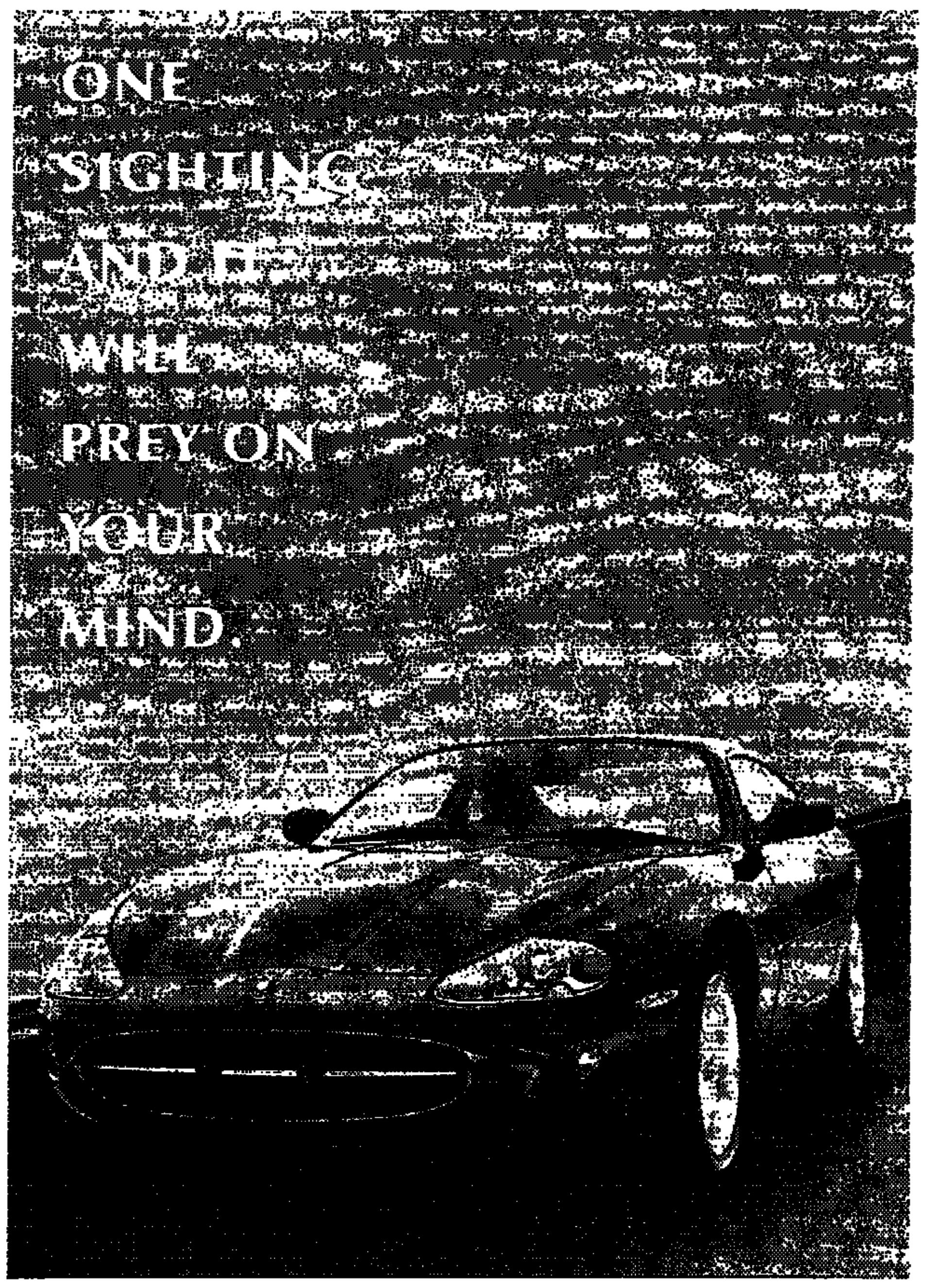

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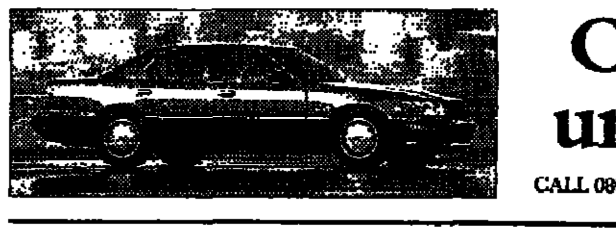

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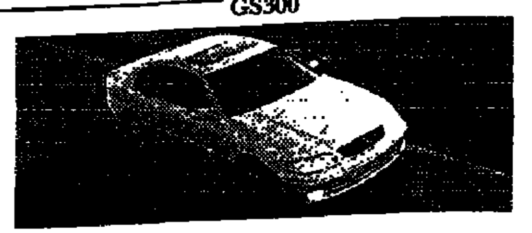

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هكذا من الأصل

Andrew Pierce meets Hugo Spowers, who wants motorsport to stub out tobacco advertising

Against the computer and smoke

ADRIAN BROOKS

New look: Hugo Spowers and the 1969 Jaguar he has just given a £90,000 renovation

Hugo Spowers is the scourge of the motor racing fraternity with his one-man campaign against tobacco sponsorship, the sport's financial lifeblood. Not yet in the big time, Spowers has a car competing in support bills at grand prix circuits in Formula Three, aptly named The Extinguisher, covered in no-smoking signs.

The stuntman-turned-racing driver, who founded the Dangerous Sports Club when he was at Oxford in the 1980s, runs a classic car restoration company. A 1969 Jaguar 420g is the latest example of his work; it cost £90,000 and took a year to complete. He is one of one of the most flamboyant figures on the racing circuit, a throwback to when amateur drivers raced for the thrills — even though he is using his car for a crusade against something he believes is wrong.

STEERING COLUMN

How did you first learn to drive?

I was about eight on a rear wheel-steering dumper truck. It was in the garden near Swindlesham. It was not difficult. I mastered it quickly. I was driving a hydraulic digger by the age of 12.

What was your first car?

I made it myself when I was at Oxford. The body was a shell designed for a steam-powered car. I installed a VW Beetle in it, but it was unusual because it had no chassis.

What car do you drive now, and why?

The company runabout, a Citroën, or I have a 1937 Alfa Romeo which is not a very sporting one. It's a four-door, coach-built limo, but very exotic in its way with wonderfully original leather paint.

Do you like driving?

In Britain I find it irritating because of the traffic and regulations. I am happier driving long distances on the Continent on good roads in a nice car. I prefer older cars because the modern sports car is so limited.

What is your dream car?

One I would make myself, a small, narrow, two-seater sports car from composite materials. Lightweight, narrow tyres, and I would make my own 1500cc engine.

What is your most hated car?

Those optimised by computers with no originality and epitomised by the wretched Vauxhall Vectra. How can anyone spend £1 billion and end up with that?

What is your worst habit in the car?

Always leaving late for wherever I am going, and taking a cup of tea and telephone with me. The car is littered with empty teacups. Fortunately, they are not the bone china.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

The ubiquitous Sunday drivers, who now seem to be on the roads seven days a week. Their level of concentration is dire. They do not have any apparent desire to complete their journey.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

I lived in a Range Rover, morning noon and night, for three months with two male companions when we drove back from India across Asia in the high summer. We left Iran the day they burnt a cinema down. The following day they closed the border. We celebrated Christmas 1991 in Poland and decided to go to St Petersburg to celebrate New Year as they brought down the Communist flag. We never made it to St Petersburg. The Alfa Romeo broke down in the wilds of nowhere. We were relayed back and kept warm in our fur coats.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

A few. For speeding and, when I was younger, for breaching car construction regulations. The day before I was banned, I bought the Trandem, which was featured at the beginning of *The Goodies*, at a Sotheby's auction. I cycled back from Botswana on it — not very comfortable. The bike is still in my shed.

What do you listen to in the car?

Often nothing. It is a good thinking time. Fine old cars with fine engines do not deserve intrusion. I do, however, have a record player in the Alfa Romeo.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Cancel the road construction budget and divert it into the railways. I would take great delight in calling a halt to any more pedestrian traffic lights and sleeping policemen. I would also cut the road traffic police force by half and redeploy them against drug traffickers.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

When I think of car commercials I think of desperately uninspired images of new toothpaste tubes snaking along a road in the highlands. I would create my own advertisement. It would be a car on skis overtaking a downhill skier in Kitzbühel.

Kevin Eason is unimpressed by Saab technology

Finally, this is just too clever by half

Saab 900 2.0S turbo: too much of all the wrong things

Sometimes the reason for the technology defeats me. Just because a boffin thinks up the mechanics of a toaster that can administer a shot of hair gel and bath the baby at the same time does not mean I need to own it.

Carmakers should note that I can drive along happily with my left foot no more inclined to kick down a clutch than put the boot into a deeply unpleasant centre back. Give me an automatic every time: all that waggling gearsticks is distinctly primitive.

Not according to Saab, which has come up with the Sensonic semi-automatic gearbox — a five speed gearbox but with no clutch, essentially an adaptation of Formula One technology which allows Damon Hill to decide when to change gear without exercising his left leg. Saab's system is supposedly so clever that it won the award for technology from Britain's most authoritative motoring magazine. Why? Hill gains precious hundredths of a second using a semi-automatic, about the same time I need to decide whether to plug Alanis Morrisette into the stereo system or Russ Conway's greatest hits.

Now I am quite fond of Saab's 900, especially in coupé form, with its attractive dashboard, spacious cabin and cavernous boot. But the turbo-charged Sensonic version is too much of all the wrong things: too much power through the front wheels and a gearbox with all the novelty and practicality of one of Paul Daniels's magic tricks.

The shift is easy enough: push the gearstick through the usual H-box, just remembering to lift off the power with each change. But the feel is curiously dead, with no response at all unless the throttle is given a firm push. Push too hard and you risk the turbo-charger cutting in to send you careering off down the road like a runaway horse.

And the system was fantastically irritating in the sort of heavy traffic conditions that I encountered most days, dinging a warning bell if I sat still in first gear for more than a few seconds. Yet Saab's publicity blurb says: "Imagine never having to worry about stalling unexpectedly or slipping the clutch."

OK. I just shut my eyes for a moment . . . and yes, there it is: Sorry Saab, I still bought an automatic.

SAAB 900 2.0S TURBO

Gears use the usual H-shift, but the feel is curiously dead

Price: £20,202. Sensonic transmission £750.

Engine: Eco-power turbo-charged 2-litre developing 185 brake horse power through the front wheels.

Performance: 0-60mph in eight seconds, top speed 143mph, fuel consumption 22.6mpg in town, 44.8mpg at constant 56mph.

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230E Auto 92 "K". smoke silver. 58k. fmsh. 1 onr. £17,950 01254 878905/ 0973 313334

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AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**

A40 Hillingdon. Waterpipe work being carried out on the Western Avenue Bridge slip roads.

A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks continue over the Lea Valley Viaduct.

A406 North Circular Road, Finchley. Major roadworks continue with various restrictions between the A1 and A1000 junctions.

A12 Eastern Avenue, Wanstead. Construction of the M11 link road continues, with eastbound reduced to a single lane between the Redbridge roundabout and High Street.

A243 Leatherhead Road, Chessington. Closed northbound for major roadworks outside Chessington World of Adventures. Diversions cause delays back to junction 9 of the M25 at peak times.

A4 Great West Road, Chiswick. Between 9pm and 6am Monday-Thursday nights reduced to one lane each way for continuing repair work to the crumbling elevated section of the M4 above.

● **SOUTH-EAST**

M4 Berkshire. Major roadworks and contraflow between junctions 6 and 8/9 cause lengthy tailbacks daily.

M25 Surrey. Two sections of widening work, with lane closures and contraflows between junctions 6 and 8 and 9 and 10.

M1 Hertfordshire. Resurfacing and widening work on northbound exit at junction 6. Slip road is sometimes closed overnight, with diversions via junction 5 and the A41.

A247 Surrey. Roadworks on the street between Clandon Station and Clandon Park. Long delays expected during peak times.

A509 Buckinghamshire. Major roadworks on the Wellingborough Road in Olney, at junction with Lavendon Road.

A264 Sussex. Delays expected through East Grinstead town centre due to several sets off roadworks on Holtye Road, Portland Land and Moat Road.

A249 Kent. Major works at the Stockbury roundabout west of Sittingbourne often cause lengthy hold-ups between the M2 and Kingsferry Bridge.

A36 Hampshire. Bridge repairs at Wellow, north-west of Southampton.

● **SOUTH-WEST**

M4/M5 Avon. Work on second Severn crossing continues, with restrictions around the Almondsbury & Aust interchanges, and also on the M5 around junction 18.

A3030 Dorset. Down to one lane 24 hours a day through Allweston, near Sherborne, for roadworks.

A4 Avon. Lane restrictions and temporary lights over the Newbridge Bridge, Bath, due to strengthening work on the bridge.

M5 Somerset. Bridge repairs with lane closures both ways between junctions 21 and 22.

A381 Devon. Roadworks continue in Teignmouth between Salcombe Dip and Inverteign Drive with occasional temporary lights.

A30 Cornwall. Roadworks and contraflow near Bolventor, on Bodmin Moor.

A377 Devon. Roadworks continue around Eggesford, between Exeter and Barnstaple, with temporary traffic lights around the clock.

● **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**

M6 West Midlands. Major roadworks continue between junctions 5 and 6 with lane restrictions in both directions.

A6 Leicestershire. Major roadworks and contraflow at Lockington, between junction 24 of the M1 and Sawley Island.

M69 Leicestershire. Link road from the M69 to M1 northbound closed at junction 21. A short diversion is in operation via the roundabout.

M65 Lancashire. Down to one lane in both directions between junctions 10 and 14 between 9.30am and 4pm on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

A47 Norfolk. Two sets of major roadworks: at Terrington St John, and at Swaffham.

A11 Norfolk. Construction of Wymondham bypass continues, with lane and speed restrictions between Hethersett and Attleborough.

M6 Staffordshire. North and southbound entry sliproads on to motorway closed at junction 11 while work is carried out on the A460. Diversions are signed.

● **NORTH**

M1 West Yorkshire. Roadworks and contraflow at end of the motorway at junction 47.

M6 Cheshire. Widening work continues between junctions 20 and 21.

M6 Greater Manchester. Roadworks and lane closures between junctions 24 and 26.

A5063 Greater Manchester. Major roadworks and lane closures on Trafford Road, near junction with Pomona Strand.

A630 South Yorkshire. Major roadworks and contraflow on the Rotherway at Canklow, between junction 33 of the M1 and Rotherham.

A167M Tyneside. Northbound lane closures on the Newcastle central motorway near Jesmond Road interchange for bridge repairs.

● **WALES**

M4 Gwent. Widening work continues in connection with second Severn crossing between junctions 22 and 24.

A48 West Glamorgan. Construction work with lane closures on all approaches to the Wychtree roundabout at Morriston.

A483 West Glamorgan. Major roadworks and contraflow on Fabian Way, Swansea between Elba Crescent and the Earlswood lights.

A4229 Mid Glamorgan. Roadworks and temporary traffic lights between Cornelly and Porthcawl.

A547 Gwynedd. Bridge repairs with temporary traffic lights near A55 junction at Llandudno Junction.

● **SCOTLAND**

M8 Strathclyde. Westbound exit at junction 27 closed. An alternative route can be taken via junction 26 or junction 29.

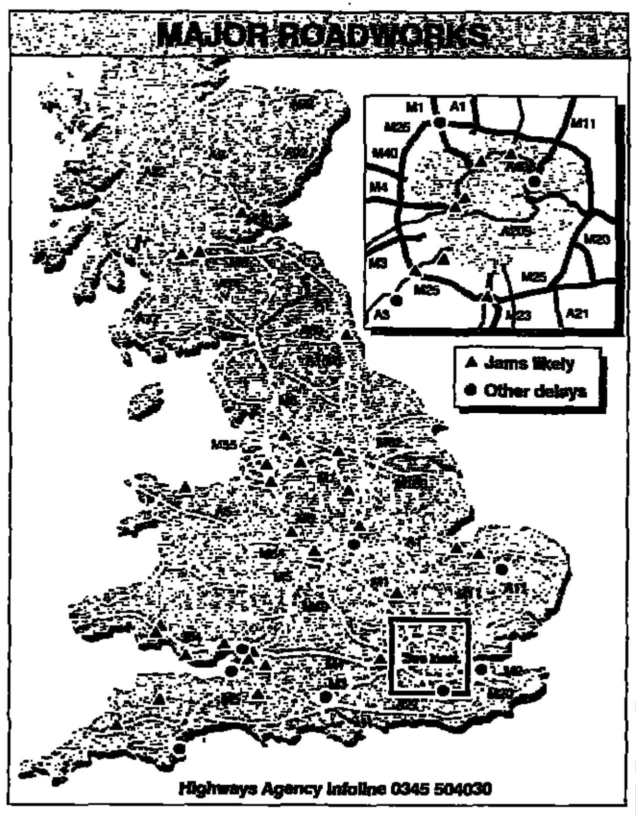
A749 Strathclyde. Dalmarnock Bridge, Glasgow closed southbound for repairs.

M90 Tayside. Major roadworks at junction 10, with lane closures in both directions.

● **NORTHERN IRELAND**

County Tyrone. Roadworks on Omagh bypass at junction with Derry Road.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



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The next Motor Mania programme on Channel 4 is broadcast on Tuesday March 12 at 8pm.

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Vaughan Freeman hears the sorry tale of the rogue Fiat Uno and a couple's three years of frustration and danger

MARC ASPLAND

Vincent O'Riley: "My wife was involved in a rush-hour collision following an engine failure, her first accident in nearly 40 years of motoring"

A goer, but only at going wrong

There was nothing Eileen O'Riley could do when the engine died and her Fiat coasted into the path of oncoming vehicles. The result was a crash which has shaken the faith of her and husband, Vincent, in the little Fiat Uno that was their pride and joy.

The couple bought the car because of Vincent's passion for the marque, kindled by his first car, the classic tiny Fiat Topolino. He bought the Uno after visiting an exhibition featuring the Fiat at a Design Centre display in London.

Now he looks back over nearly three years of frustration and cost, trying to live with a car that has given little pleasure but a lot of problems, a catalogue of parts failures, engine cut-outs, poor and rough engine running and frustrating days, with the Uno in the workshop of his local garage instead of on the road. In all that time, the Uno has given only six months of trouble-free motoring, he says.

Vincent, a retired engineer, bought the Uno 1.4ieS from Marn Garage, Camberley, Surrey, for £7,900. Almost instantly, he says, the first of many niggling problems showed themselves.

"On delivery, I discovered that the radio was faulty and the speedometer needle was vibrating at lower speeds," he says. "Also, within a few days of taking delivery, a sunroof was fitted and the technician fitting it succeeded in severing the radio aerial. We later found out that the roof leaked very badly."

Later more problems surfaced, including a faulty handbrake and the heater failing again. The real difficulty though — a recurring problem with the electronic engine management system — would prove the most worrying and dispiriting.

The fault, tricky to diagnose and even harder to remedy, repeatedly left the car with reduced power, struggling along at barely 20mph and any attempt to use the throttle only resulted in the engine giving up completely. In the worst instances, the fault occured without warning, causing an instant and potentially lethal engine cut-out.

Over the months, important microchips in the car's electronic "brain" have been replaced, the entire ignition unit replaced and a new "Lamdba" sensor, which helps to monitor engine performance, has been installed.

"Early on, Eileen, came close to being involved in an accident when the engine died as she approached a roundabout, and the next day I had the same experience when the engine cut as I was overtaking a moped," says Vincent, of Finchampstead, near Wokingham, Berkshire. "It was inevitable that an accident should occur, and sure enough it did. My wife was involved in a collision in the middle of the rush hour following an engine failure, her first accident in nearly 40 years of motoring. When I collected the car from the repair shop, the engine failed again."

'We chose the Uno as brand loyalty to Fiat. That has been dented'

Eileen was fortunately unharmed, but the accident cost the couple their £100 insurance excess and £100 no claims discount. But the final straw came a few weeks ago when the car's engine cut out as Vincent was driving along the M40.'

"Fortunately, I had only just joined the motorway and was on the inside lane, or I don't know what would have happened," he says. The car was ignominiously brought home by the AA to Cleveland Cars in Ash, Aldershot, where engineers and mechanics, sadly all too familiar with the vehicle and its irritatingly unreliable innards, worked for the best part of a fortnight trying to isolate the problem.

"They have performed their exasperating tasks with a high degree of competence," he says, but adds that, while Cleveland Cars have been as diligent and courteous as he could have wished, he believes the odds are stacked against them in their battle to sort out the numerous problems that have plagued the vehicle. Even a visit by a Fiat engineer failed to keep the car running reliably long-term.

Fiat has at least reacted to the O'Rileys' plight by arranging for another engineer to examine their car and loaning the couple a courtesy car [illegible] minimise inconvenience while theirs is off the road yet again.

But the couple's experience demonstrates to carmakers just how quickly faith built up over decades can be destroyed by one bad car. Vincent's early burning passion for the Fiat marque has clearly dimmed.

"My first car, in 1954, was a pre-war Fiat Topolino, one of the original 500s. I had that for several years, and then had a Fiat 600. Subsequently, I have had Fiats from time to time over the years, and then we went to the Design Centre exhibition. As a result, we went for a test drive in a new Fiat Cinquecento. That was too small, so instead we went for the Uno as a bit of brand loyalty to Fiat.

"That loyalty has rather been dented. As a professional engineer with more than 45 years' experience of electronic and computer systems, I am aware that intermittent faults can be elusive, but also that with the right level of resource and competence they can be put right. There is no doubt in my mind that in its present state, this car is not capable of satisfying the purpose for which it was sold."

DIARY OF A NIGHTMARE

JUNE 23, 1993
Mr O'Riley pays £7,900 for his Fiat Uno 1.4ieS. Radio faulty on delivery and speedo erratic.

JUNE 26, 1993:
Sunroof installed, leaving roof leaking and aerial severed.

OCTOBER, 1993:
Heater failed and repaired, and first erratic running of engine noticed. Heater failed again and replaced; Lambda sensor replaced.

MARCH, 1994:
Engine problem recurring, microchip replaced.

THROUGHOUT 1994:
Recurring engine problems, complete ignition unit changed.

APRIL, 1995:
Accident after engine failed in moving traffic.

MAY, 1995:
Visit by Fiat engineer results in six months' trouble-free motoring.

FEBRUARY, 1996:
Engine fails — again — this time on M40.

When one garage charges £18 an hour more than the one next door, it's decision time. **Richard Sutton** reports

Which service? The authorised version?

Two garages next door to each other and each can repair a bent BMW. The problem is that one charges £33 an hour, the other £51.60.

Having a car repaired or serviced can be a minefield of disappointments and enormous cost for thousands of motorists. The car is the biggest single annual cost they have after their homes, yet many simply give up all hope when they enter a garage — baffled by jargon, bamboozled by lack of knowledge which often costs them more.

Surely it makes sense to choose the cheaper garage of the two that sit side-by-side in Fulham: Cheyne BMW is London's biggest authorised BMW dealer and costlier than the independent garage run by Max Greene. Go to Max, or any other unauthorised dealer, and your service book will be missing the official stamps that can make the vehicle's service history look questionable, and at worst could invalidate your new car warranty.

Yet independents can be just as efficient and win huge loyalty from customers, relationships explored in a new book, *Motor Mania*, to accompany a Channel 4 series.

Harry Baggs, 86, whose father started his Cheltenham garage business in 1912, tells of a customer who has been a regular since 1930. Even David Guest, third generation proprietor of Meteor Ford in the Midlands, a company which has been a Ford main agent since the days of the Model T, says that back-street garages fulfil an important role and many have developed specialisms and are well equipped. Had the main dealer network never evolved, the small garages could never have taken advantage of its economies of scale.

So the two co-exist because of one another, the small garage supporting the used car owner, the main dealer providing parts and technological gearing in a business that has evolved into a sophisticated scientific arena.

Manufacturers argue that servicing and repairing by authorised dealers, who have invested millions of pounds in diagnostic computers, ensure work is carried out properly, while the cost of sophisticated equipment to diagnose faults is simply beyond the reach of many small independent garages. Although Max, for example, has invested in a laptop computer and software, he can't spend £90,000 needed to buy BMW's latest hardware.

He sacrifices profit by sending customers' cars next door to have problems assessed at Cheyne. "I recently had to pay about £240 to find a small leak in a head gasket," he says. "Then I found it wasn't the head gasket — it was coked-up fuel injector nozzles."

The small garages and main dealers co-exist because of each other

These are only available new as part of the injector unit, and each costs £80.26 plus VAT from BMW. BMW apparently claims injectors should not be decoked, only replaced, but Max has them cleaned and decoked using ultra-sound equipment, which costs only £20 plus VAT. Replacing all the injectors on a six-cylinder BMW can be expensive. David Sheldrake, Cheyne's service manager, says cleaning might only be superficial and any number of internal problems with the injector could go undetected by Max's method.

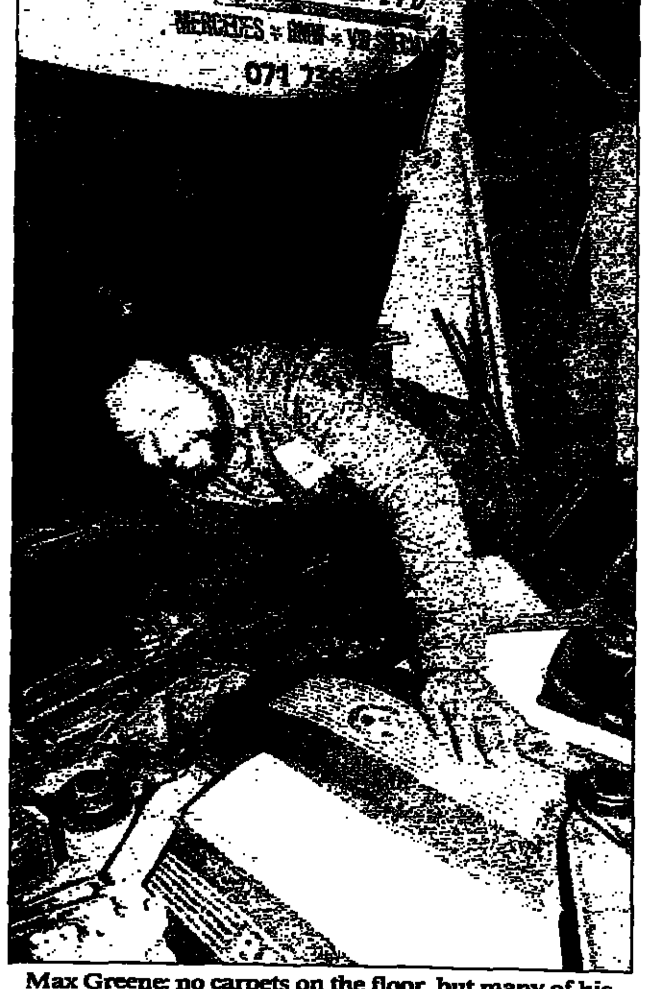
Max's approach could be a false economy, but at a saving of £361.56 (in the case of a BMW 325i) plus the difference in labour rates, plus VAT, isn't his method worth the calculated risk?

Max is not a wealthy man, he has no corporation to protect him and no besuited Service Department front man to deal with any problem. He doesn't even have a clean, soft couch on which he can counsel a disgruntled customer. So it might be argued that, although he goes to great lengths to do things inexpensively, he does so very carefully, which is why more than half his customers have been with him for many of his 26 years in business.

"At Cheyne, it's warm, they've got carpet on the floor, a coffee machine . . . and I bet the mechanics even have a social life," he says. As it is, Maxwell Greene usually only goes home after his children have rung up to ask him where he is. Like so many independent garage owners, he has to be a workaholic, just to provide the service people expect.

He cannot rely on BMW technician training courses, on plugged-into-the-moon diagnostic equipment, on corporate policy guidelines, books and rules. Instead, he uses his intelligence and intuition, fuelled by the experience he has working on all manner of cars. However, you, the customer, have got to trust him. And therein lies the problem, because trusting small independent garages is difficult to do, especially in the knowledge that Cheyne's has also been around for well over 20 years, and its reputation appears as white as its invoice stationery.

PETER TRIEVNOR



Max Greene: no carpets on the floor, but many of his customers have remained loyal to him for years

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ● WHEN buying a used car, assess it in its own right, and if suspicious that the service history may be untrue, phone the dealer(s) detailed and ask them to check their records.
- ● TAKE a personal interest in how and why work is being carried out. Meet the mechanic, make him interested in you and don't be afraid to ask if parts really need to be replaced.
- ● NEVER tell a garage what is wrong and what needs replacing. If you do, they are perfectly within their rights to carry out your demands, even if your assessment of the faults is incorrect.
- ● WHEN using a non-authorised garage, insist on original equipment or genuine factory replacement parts, especially for use in engines, brakes and on bodywork, and ask to see removed parts.
- ● ASK authorised dealers if they have an hourly rate discount for older cars.
- ● AT AN independent garage, don't try to bargain over the bill. Official dealers don't, so you should not expect a small garage to carry your costs.

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

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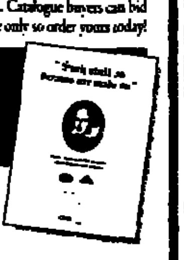

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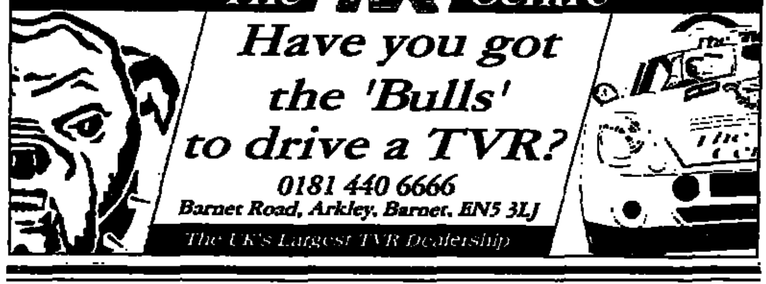

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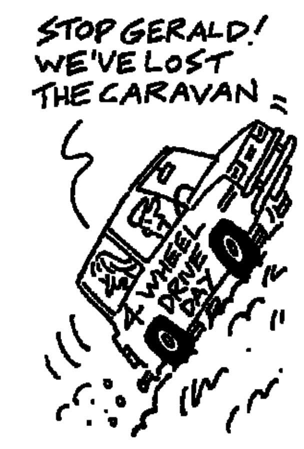
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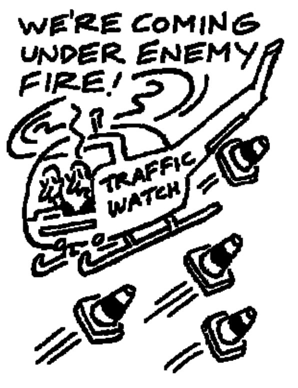
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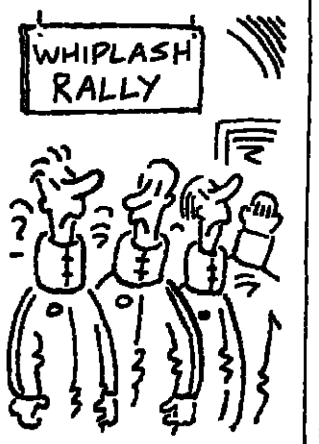


RUDE GESTURE OF THE WEEK
Haldane

Cassalina Sulky? Goggomobil? **David Long** sees a collection of the rarest microcars

Forever owning bubbles

If you want to squeeze more than 40 cars into a single barn, you need a very big barn or some very small cars. Jean Hammond has both.

Jean and her husband, Edwin, started collecting bubble cars in the mid-1970s and 20 years on are not entirely sure quite how many they have on their Kent farm. Jean admits to "about 45, depending on how you count them. That's complete cars, but I never really know whether to include the basket cases when I get asked that one."

The names of some of them, such as Messerschmitt, Heinkel, Vespa, are immediately recognisable. Other badges, bearing the logos of AC, Allard and BMW, are equally familiar, though they are more often seen on machines at the other end of the performance scale. But most are real rarities: the Opperman Stirling, the Cassalina Sulky, the Frisky, Goggomobil, Bamby, Tourette and Peel were built in tiny numbers and today are remembered only by the likes of the Hammonds and other members of the Register of Unusual Microcars. Some look like real cars scaled down, others make little or no attempt at conventional styling and almost glory in their toy-like bubble designs.

The collection started with a 198cc Irish-built Heinkel, which the Hammonds bought for their 6ft-tall son, Andrew, then a teenager, in an attempt to lure him away from motorbikes, while the family car was a 7.2-litre Jensen Interceptor. Andrew and his father, a trained engineer, spent 18 months restoring the Heinkel, by which time the family was hooked.

The innovative approach of the microcar designers most appeals to the engineer in Edwin Hammond. Particularly in Germany where, from 1945, new uses had to be found for aircraft and munitions factories and designers needed to box clever to work and survive on such a small scale.

"Messerschmitt produced a car which looked like a fighter aircraft cockpit because that was what they knew best," says Jean. "And although the little Isetta looked eccentric, it was arguably the car that saved BMW."

The couple have acquired their cars from the most unlikely sources. The French Flipper was won in a raffle, one of two baby Fiats was bought for pennies at a scouts' jumble sale and a pair of sorry-looking Empolini Vanettes were donated by a pizza delivery company in London. But perhaps the saddest of all is the Kent-built Cursor which was fished out of the Medway after being dropped in by vandals.

Others, like the splendid Velorex with its imitation leather body, have at least an air of glamour. Jean's example was smuggled out of Czechoslovakia by a student escaping to the West. It has now been joined by another refugee, a toothpaste-pink Trabant from the former East Germany. This was originally a gift to a popular teacher from his grateful pupils, each of whom autographed the bodywork as a memento for his retirement.

While nothing in the collection is exactly commonplace, the rarest exhibit is an Opperman Stirling, sole survivor of only two to be built. It's twin was shown at the 1958 London Motor Show, where it attracted considerable interest but never made it into production. Jean claims the project was killed off because the big component suppliers would not get involved: "The Stirling was perceived in some quarters as a rival for the forthcoming Mini and many of the big boys were too scared to touch it in case they upset BMC."

Its eventual fate was therefore little different to that of so many of the early micros. Indeed, of an estimated 600 manufacturers, none has survived in its original form and most are all but forgotten.

Down in Kent, Jean has all the exhibits, the unflagging enthusiasm, even the building plot for her next dream: a museum dedicated to the ingenuity of the microcar. All she needs now is a sponsor.

TONY WHITE

Motoring in miniature: Jean Hammond in a 1957 Heinkel, which shares the barn with Messerschmitt and other rarities

Vaughan Freeman on a sporty Ford

Dagenham dreams up a wild cat to follow the Mustang

The Mustang of the 1960s and the Capri in the 1970s became motoring legends. Their aggressive looks might have promised more performance than they delivered, but drivers loved them and the two cars established Ford as a serious player in the four-seat sports car market.

Now Ford has unveiled the car to carry on where the Mustang and Capri left off. Designed in Britain, and based on the Dagenham-built Fiesta, the Lynx could go on sale within three years, even though Ford described it only as a concept when it was shown at this week's Geneva Motor Show.

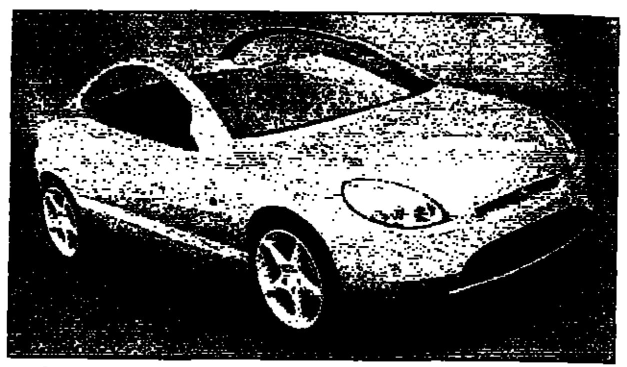
For Ford, the Lynx is designed to make mundane motoring problems, like losing the keys, or grabbing a grubby door handle just as you are about to shake hands with the company chairman, a thing of the past. The doors ease open once the user has "swiped" the car's smart card down a special slot.

Designed by Ford's team of stylists at its Small and Medium Vehicle Centre based in Britain and Germany, chief designer Chris Clements says: "The Lynx is a modern interpretation of a sports car. As the small car share of the overall car market in Europe continues to grow, an increasing number of buyers will be looking for an alternative to the conventional hot-hatch concept. We have built the Lynx to guage the level of public interest in a compact four-seater sports car."

Despite the futuristic looks the Lynx has as much room inside for people and their shopping as the Fiesta. Ian McAllister, Ford of Britain chairman, was coy about the car's prospects of making it into production, but left little doubt that was the hope.

He said the Lynx would appeal as much to the sort of customer who would have been first to get hooked up to the Internet, as to over-55s whose children had left home and who wanted a car that was different, exciting, yet practical.

"The older generation now have the wealth to indulge those fantasies," he said. "The market is changing. People want small cars with big car luxury, with refined power, and which do not give out an aggressive, brash image so much as one that is quietly assertive and confident."



The Lynx: "the modern interpretation of a sports car"

Coming soon: a game of Scrabble with Reg

DR DASHBOARD

Q There I was saving up for a new P-registered car in August and someone tells me that the Government is getting rid of the letter change system. Is it true?

A Yes . . . and no. The Department of Transport, Home Office and the motor industry have been trying to thrash out some way of getting rid of the August registration change for the sake of the industry, and it wants change sooner rather than later.

Q But why? They get loads of sales in August and everybody loves the new letter change.

A They love the sales, just not all at once. The system started to help people mark their MoT year but was moved to August to help the industry boost low summer sales.

But, since then, August registrations have gone ballistic, accounting now for a quarter of the annual total. That means manufacturers idle along all year and then put in a spurt for the big changeover. Dealers also have to carry masses of stock — up to 500,000 cars — for one month. Experts say the system costs the industry £1 billion.

Q So what will come in its place? Will we get those bizarre foreign-style plates with lots of letters and numbers?

A No, because the Home Office probably won't allow it. Police say witnesses remember the registration letter on a number plate if nothing else in an accident or crime, so they want any new system to be as clear to identify as the present one. The most widely touted idea is for plates to be changed quarterly.

Q Quarterly? Why do that? We'll end up with a motor industry version of Scrabble with everybody picking up a new letter every few months.

A Maybe, but the motor industry is very enthusiastic about the idea. Executives say it would coincide with all the traditional calender events in the sales year: January for the year start, April to coincide with spring sales campaigns, August for a summer boost and October for new model launches. Simple as A, B, C . . . er, only more regularly.

Q When will all this happen so I can decide which letter of the alphabet I want for my new car?

A Don't hold your breath because the talking is still going on to iron out wrinkles. There is still a chance that other systems will be chosen, perhaps adding postcode-style identifiers to a year letter code. Whatever happens, the Department of Transport won't be rushed into another system that just causes problems somewhere else in the year.

Q Does that mean I can still have my P-plate motor this August just as I planned?

A Yes, keep saving because those brand shiny new P-plated cars will all be lined up on the forecourt on August 1 as usual.

COMPANY CAR DRIVER CONTEST

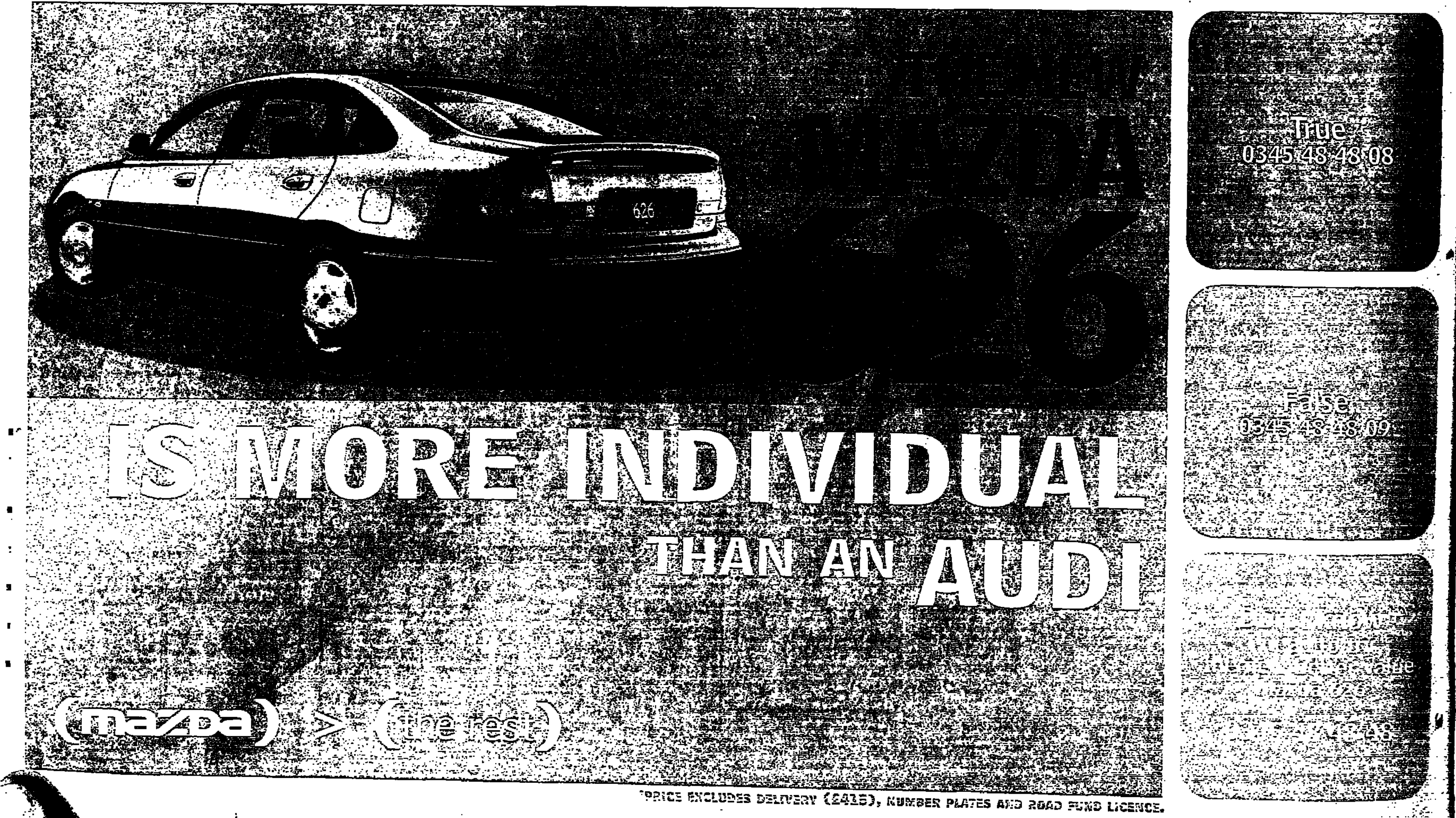
● NEXT WEEK we will announce details of *The Times*-Leaseplan Company Car Driver of the Year competition. This is the third year of the competition, and hundreds have taken part in the detailed road and track tests that examine every facet of their skills.

But it is worth the effort, with one of the best prizes in the country on offer to the driver who makes it through a regional heat and into the final at Silverstone.

Nissan is providing its new Almera hatchback as the competition car for each heat and the final, while the road and skills testing will be by DriveTech, one of Britain's top driver training schools, staffed by former Class One police drivers. The final will be conducted by the Silverstone Driving Centre, run by John Watson, the ex-Formula One driver and grand prix commentator on Sky Television.

So companies, hospitals, surgeries, sports centres, hotels — anywhere there are company vehicle drivers from cars to fire engines — should seek out the motorists who not only want to hone their skills but to win a top prize and the accolade of Britain's best company driver.

THE TIMES
Lease Plan
Company Car Driver
1996



*PRICE EXCLUDES DELIVERY (£415), NUMBER PLATES AND ROAD FUND LICENCE.

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